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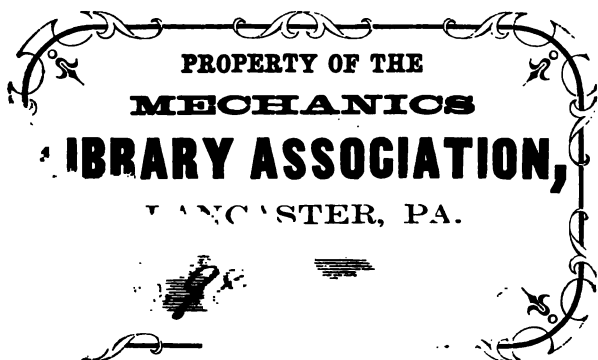
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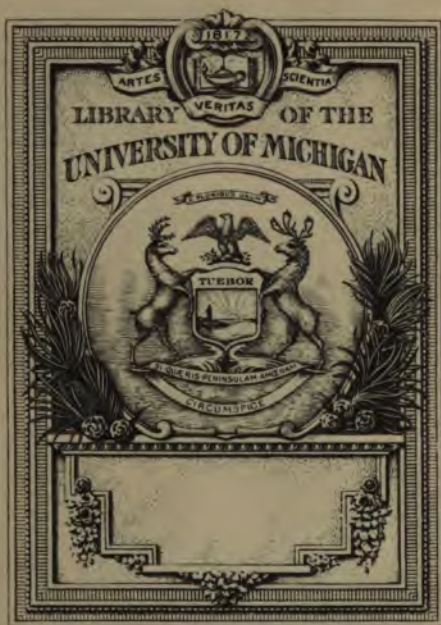
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A
SYSTEM OF NOTATION ;

REPRESENTING THE
SOUNDS OF ALPHABETICAL CHARACTERS

BY A NEW APPLICATION
OF
THE ACCENTUAL MARKS IN PRESENT USE :

WITH
SUCH ADDITIONS AS WERE NECESSARY
TO SUPPLY DEFICIENCIES.



By WILLIAM PELHAM.

"Distinct articulation is the first, and most essential part of speech."

KENRICK.

"Though custom be admitted the arbiter of speech, caprice is by no means
the arbiter of custom."

IBID.

BOSTON ;

PRINTED FOR W. PELHAM, NO. 59, CORNHILL.

1808.

"Pronunciation is just, when every letter has its proper sound, and when every syllable has its proper accent."

JOHNSON.

"In the volubility of conversation, the vowels are frequently confounded with each other, by the best speakers. Nothing, therefore, can tend more to correct the present errors, establish a criterion; and make future improvements in speech, than pointing out the natural distinctions, and endeavouring to keep their number as small, and their quality as precise, as possible."

KENRICK.

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, to wit :

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the seventh day of March, in the thirty-second year of the Independence of the United States of America, WILLIAM PELHAM, of the said District, hath deposited in this office the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as author, in the words following, to wit :—
"A SYSTEM OF NOTATION; representing the sounds of alphabetical characters by a new application of the accentual marks in present use, with such additions as were necessary to supply deficiencies." By William Pelham.
"Distinct articulation is the first, and most essential part of speech." Kenrick.
"Though custom be admitted the arbiter of speech, caprice is by no means the arbiter of custom." Ibid.

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WILLIAM S. SHAW, { Clerk of the District
of Massachusetts.

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PREFACE.

EVERY attempt to facilitate the pronunciation of a language is entitled to candid attention, and a fair investigation of its merits. If the method suggested be found essentially defective, it will of course, be laid aside. If, on the contrary, the means appear to be adequate to the purpose, candour will approve, and liberality support the undertaking.

The want of regularity in the powers of the alphabetical characters has been often noticed, as the greatest difficulty in the study of the English language, and has always been most sensibly experienced by foreigners. While the same vowel is frequently employed to represent different sounds, there are many instances in which two, and some in which three vowels occur together, having the sound of one only. Several of the consonants likewise, and those of the most frequent recurrence, are subject to diversity of sound, and in many words, totally useless with regard to pronunciation. These are radical defects; and while they continue to exist in the English alphabet, will constantly impede the progress of all who undertake to learn the language. Hence arise the disgust of foreigners, and the discouragement of youth in our elementary schools.

Among those who have published their labours on the subject of English pronunciation, two writers of

distinguished reputation have turned their attention to a particular consideration of the alphabetical characters. Mr. Sheridan engaged in a regular analysis of the power of each letter in all its combinations. The acute discernment and persevering industry displayed in that investigation, together with his valuable works on Elocution, have justly placed him in the first rank of English orthoepists. But in tracing the nice distinctions between the varying sounds of the vowels, it is not surprising that he should have sometimes failed. Mr. Walker, to whose critical knowledge and extensive research we are indebted for the most copious treatise on the subject, proceeded on the same plan, occasionally pointing out, and correcting the errors of his predecessor. But infallibility is not the attribute of man. Each of these authors endeavoured to establish a "Standard of Pronunciation;" each differs from the other; and each has his advocates. In this contrariety of opinions, respecting what the language ought to be, and what it actually is, where shall the student look for an indisputable authority? Even the most zealous partisan of JOHNSON; of Sheridan, of Walker, or of Perry, will not implicitly conform his practice to the authority he has chosen, but will occasionally assert the right of individual judgment, founded on his own observation. With these circumstances in view, the author of the present work utterly disclaims the arrogant assumption of absolute decision; professing only to exhibit the current mode of speech according to his most attentive observation, assisted by the best English dictionaries.

In works professedly written for the purpose of regulating the pronunciation, it is usual to detail the principles which govern it; and the rules thus de-

tailed, necessarily become numerous and complicated. Hence, their utility is confined to a few persevering students, while a system calculated for popular use continues to be a *desideratum*.

According to the method of teaching pronunciation by those rules, the student must not only remember all the variations of each letter, but commit to memory long catalogues of words, as examples of each variety. He must recollect that the *a* in *salt*, and in all other words of the same class, is similar to *au* in *fault*; while the combination *au* loses this sound, and assumes a new one in *aunt*, *daunt*, &c. In short, he must get by rote all the words in the language, and be able to class them according to their sounds. Perry indeed, plainly directs those "who wish to make the English language familiar to them without the assistance of a teacher, to repeat six or eight pages of 'his' dictionary *daily*, and when they shall have *gone through the whole*, to begin again! and thus to continue until the end aimed at be accomplished."

By the method proposed in the present work, all the varieties of vowel sounds are represented by twenty one marks, including their long and short sounds. Eleven of the consonants, and seven double consonants, are likewise distinguished in all the diversity of sound to which they are subject. The vowels remain unaltered, and the variable consonants are noted by slight additions, not materially affecting their usual appearance. As soon as the student has made himself acquainted with these characters, he will be qualified to pronounce any word printed with them: and after an attentive perusal of a volume thus marked, it is probable, that he would

meet with few words of which he had not acquired the pronunciation.

Whether this plan possesses any peculiar advantages remains to be determined by public experience ; the only sure test of utility. To the PUBLIC, therefore, it is submitted ; not as a *perfect remedy* for the defects alluded to ; not as the "Only Sure Guide ; " but simply as an AID, in obtaining a knowledge of English pronunciation and orthography. When the novelty of the design, and the difficulties attending its execution are duly considered, just allowances will, doubtless, be made for trivial failures.

In the comparison of English with French sounds, the assistance of a French gentleman, thoroughly conversant with both languages, has essentially contributed to render this part of the undertaking as perfect as the genius of the respective languages will permit.

To the zealous care and correct taste of Mr. Lothian, the work is indebted for the accuracy and elegance of the types ; and to the skill and attention of Messrs. Munroe & Francis, for the neatness of the impression.

The author is still sensible, that notwithstanding his utmost diligence, some errors may be found, (and he is not solicitous to conceal them) but he hopes there are none of material consequence ; and frankly invites the candid criticisms of the students of orthoepy ; his object being the same as theirs.

EXPLANATION.

THE NOTATION presented in this work is founded on the following principles :

1. Each vowel-mark denotes one *invariable* sound, whatever the vowel or vowels may be, over which it is placed.
2. Such consonants as are subject to variety of sound, have slight additions to distinguish their respective variations.
3. Silent, or inefficient vowels have no marks over them.
4. Consonants merely redundant are not particularly noticed ; but such as, if sounded, would vitiate the pronunciation of a word, are printed in *Italic*.
5. The correct spelling of each word is preserved ; there being no necessity for false spelling to direct the pronunciation.
6. All the accentual marks in common use are retained ; but limited in their effect, by the principle of each mark denoting one sound only.

As the utility of this scheme of notation depends on associating the idea of a certain sound with its appropriate sign, it is important to the student, that this be done with accuracy. The best method will be to listen attentively to any competent reader of English, while he slowly, and clearly articulates the

words selected as examples, the student at the same time carefully observing the corresponding marks, and fixing them in his memory. When he can correctly pronounce those words (which are comparatively few) and recollect the appropriate sign of each sound, he will be able, without further assistance, to pronounce any word in the subsequent novel.

For the convenience of foreigners who may be acquainted with the French language, and may not have an opportunity of consulting a reader of English, a comparison of English and French sounds is introduced, by which they may obtain a knowledge of English pronunciation, though not so perfectly : for, beside the difficulty of approximating the sounds common to both languages, there are some, peculiar to each.

As the English sounds of *th* and *th* do not exist in the French language, a description of their organic formation may possibly supply the want of comparison. [See the table of English consonants compared with French.] To utter the sound of *th*, nothing more is necessary, than placing the tip of the tongue against the *edge* of the upper teeth, and *breathing audibly*, while the tongue remains in that position ; as in the words *thin*, *thick*. To pronounce *th*, the tongue is to be placed in the same manner, and the *voice* distinctly heard through the teeth, as in the words *then*, *this*. It will be observed, in emitting these sounds, that they resemble the consonants *f* and *v*, with this difference, that the latter are produced by placing the lower lip against the *edge* of the teeth, and the former by placing the *tongue* instead of the *lip*. Those therefore, who can distinctly pronounce *f* and *v*, will find little difficulty in sounding *th* and *th*, though much practice will be necessary to render the utterance of these sounds familiar to the organs.

In the tables of French and English sounds, the genuine French words in Italic, and the English words exemplified by them, are pronounced exactly alike. But though alike in sound, they are not to be considered as mutual translations of sense ; the object being merely to exhibit similarity of pronunciation.*

OF THE POWERS OF THE LETTERS.

THE English alphabet is usually represented as containing twenty six letters, the various combinations of which express all the words in the language. A stranger would therefore naturally conclude, that the whole structure of the English language is founded on twenty six radical sounds : yet, when he becomes acquainted with the alphabet, he finds that the same letter is employed to represent different sounds, while some of the simple sounds can only be represented by combining two or more of the characters. The causes of this irregularity are too remote, and the characters have been too long established, to admit of any *radical* change ; nor is it indeed desirable, if the sounds of the letters can be accurately distinguished, without impairing their usual appearance. This is the object of the present publication, and it is presumed, that the alphabet exhibited in the following

* In the spurious French words distinguished by the reference § the stress of the voice (which necessarily shortens the preceding vowels) is to be placed on the *a* in *kia*rde, *ki*arte, *gui*arte, *rigui*arde ; on the *i* in *vi*jeune ; on *ou* in *fio*uveune ; on *i* in *hou*ûche ; on the first *e* in *hou*eue : and on the Italic vowels in *ci*ti, *gu*ni, *pr*itti, *biz*zi, *bou*zomme, *mi*orzi, *hiou*manne, *miou*zichan, *hiou*maine, *veur*tioy.

Tables may obviate one of the greatest obstructions complained of by foreigners, in studying the pronunciation of English.

It will readily be perceived, that *c* has five different sounds ; that the combination *ch* has three sounds ; that *g* has also three sounds ; that *s* has four, &c. By introducing these distinctions into the alphabet, it appears to consist of fifty single and double letters : but if we analyse their sounds, we shall find that many of them are duplicates, and some even triplicates of the same letter. By withdrawing these repetitions the number of consonants might be reduced to twenty, *viz.* b d f g (*ghee*) h j k l m n ng (*nasal*) p r s sh t th v z. All the rest are repetitions, either single or combined. Thus, then, we have twenty consonant sounds. If to these be added the eight simple vowel sounds, (see page xiv) the amount will shew the whole number of radical sounds in the English language.

Of the thirty consonants thus excluded,

c	is the same as	k	can, kan.
e	. . . . .	ky	eard, kyard.
ç	. . . . .	ş	çell, şell.
ç	. . . . .	sh	şocial, şoshial.
c	. . . . .	z	şuffice, şuffize.
ch	. . . . .	k	chasm, kazm.
ch	. . . . .	sh	chaise, shaize.
ch	. . . . .	th	chair, thair.
f	. . . . .	v	of, ov.
g	. . . . .	gy	garden, gyarden.

[xi]

ġ	. . . . .	j	ġinger, ġinjer.
gh	. . . . .	g	ghoſt, goaſt.
gh	. . . . .	f	rough, ruff.
j	<i>vowel ſound</i>		hallelujah, halleluiah.
ṅ	. . . . .	ng	bank, bangk.
ph	. . . . .	f	phantom, fantom.
ph	. . . . .	v	ſtephen, ſteven.
qu	. . . . .	k	pique, peek.
ṙ	. . . . .	er	mitre, miter.
s	. . . . .	z	rose, roze.
z	. . . . .	zh	oſier, ozhier.
\$	. . . . .	\$h	verſion, verſhion.
t	. . . . .	\$h	nation, naſhion.
w	<i>ſhort ſound of oo</i>		will, ooill.
wh	<i>aspirate before oo</i>		when, hooen.
x	<i>the ſame as gz</i>		exact, egzact.
x	. . . . .	kş	tax, takş.
x	. . . . .	z	xerxes, zerkşeez.
y	<i>vowel ſound</i>		yard, iard.
z	. . . . .	zh	azure, azhure.

Hence it is evident, that if the alphabet were to be thus reduced to its ſimple, elementary principles, the orthography of the language muſt be totally changed. It is needleſs to expatiate on the conſequences.

DIFFERENT CONSONANTS SOUNDED ALIKE.

c carry	ch character	qu pique	k peak	
ç cell, çit		ş şell, şit		
ç speçial	ş verşion	z nation	şh faşhion	ch chaise.
c şuffice	z aşşize	s rose	x beaux	
s measure, leishure		z ature, şeizure		
f prefit	ph prop het	gh enough, rough		
f of	v novel, even	ph stephen		
g ginger, gentle		j jewel, jelly		
ng bang, şing		n bank, şink		
x tax	kş tackş	cc accçnt	y yard	j hallelujah

DIFFERENT SOUNDS OF THE SAME CONSONANT.

c	c	ç	ç	c
call,	card,	cell,	social,	suffice.
f	f	g	g	g
off, of.		gem, gill,	get, begin,	regard.
j	j	x	x	x
jar,	hallelujah.	exert,	extol,	beaux.
r	r	n	n	ng
bar, bare.		win, wink.		ginger, finger.
s	s	s	s	
sign,	resign,	vision,	version.	
t	t	z	z	
satiety,	satisfy,	zeal,	azure.	
ch	ch	ch	ch	
chasm,	chaise,	church.		
gh	gh	gh	gh	
egham,	ghostly,	laughter.		
ph	ph	ph	ph	
uphold,	philip,	stephen.		
sh	sh	sh	sh	
houshold,	misshap,	bishop.		
th	th	th	th	
spithead,	nothing,	brother.		
wh	wh	wh	wh	
snowhill,	when,	whether.		

COMPARISON OF ENGLISH U

b		bay, barb, <i>same as</i>	b	baie, barbe.
c	k	can, cõt,	c	canne, cotte.
e	†	card, cart,	§ ki	kiarde, kiarte.
ç	s	çell, çynic,	e	celle, cynique.
ç	sh	şpeçial, preçious, . .	eh	échelle, prêcheur.
c	z	şuffice, şacrifice, . .	z	hazard, gazon.
ch	k	echo, chord,	eh	écho, chorde.
ch	sh	çhaise, machine, . . .	ch	chaise, machine.
ch	tsh	çhin, çhat,	§ tch	tchinne, tchatte.
d		deem, deer,	d	dîme, dire.
f		fare, fable,	f	faire, faible.
f	v	of,	v	ovale.
g		gay, brig,	g	gai, brigade.
g	†	garter, regard, . . .	§ gui	guiarteur, riguiard
g		gem, gin,	§ dj	djême, djinne.
gh		ghost, ghostly, . . .	g	gauche, gosier.
gh	f	enough, rough, . . .	f	neuf, veuf.
h	aspirate	harp, haşh,	h	harpe, hache.
j	dg	jane, jet,	§ dj	djêne, djette.
j	y	hallelujah,	i	alleluijah.
k		key, kit,	qu	qui, quitte.
l		list, leer,	l	liste, lire.
m		may, morn,	m	mai, morne.
n		nay, net,	n	née, nette.
ng		bang, harangue, . . .	ng	rang, harang.
n	ng	banker, uncle,	n	banquier, oncle.

† c and g followed by a very slight sound of the English e or French i.
 § English words represented by spurious French.

RENCH CONSONANTS.

p	pat, papa,	p	<i>patte, papa.</i>
ph f	phrase, philip,		<i>fraise, philippe.</i>
ph v	stephen,	v	<i>rivale, rivière.</i>
qu k	pique, antique,	qu	<i>pique, antique.</i>
r initial	ray, rapid,	r	<i>raie, rapide.</i>
ř final	fare, mare,	r	<i>faire, maire.</i>
s z	rose, visit,	s	<i>rose, visite.</i>
s zh	vision, fusion,	ş j	<i>vijeune, floujeune.</i>
ş	şack, şell,	s	<i>sac, sel.</i>
ş sh	manşion, penşion, .	chi	<i>manchon, pencher.</i>
şh	şhare, şhock,	ch	<i>chaire, choc.</i>
t	tar, tare,	t	<i>tard, taire.</i>
t sh	nation, motion, . . .	ch	<i>échoir, choix.</i>
th	thin, thick, through.	†	
th	then, within, though.	†	
v	oval, over, oven, . . .	v	<i>ovale, ouvrir.</i>
w	we, west, well, . .	ou	<i>ouie, ouest.</i>
wh hoo	which, when, . . .	ş hou	<i>houitche, houéne.‡</i>
x gʒ	exact, exist,	x	<i>exacte, existe.</i>
x ks	sex, fix,	x	<i>sexe, fixe.</i>
x z	xenophon, xertes, . .	z	<i>zéro.</i>
y initial	yard, yet, yoke, . .	y	<i>il y a, yeux.</i>
z	zeal, zealous, . . .	z	<i>zèle, zélé.</i>
z zh	azure, seizure, . . .	j	<i>majeure.</i>

† These sounds cannot be represented by any French characters.

‡ Short sound of ou preceded by a strong aspiration.

COMPARISON OF LIS

λ	long	m ^o rn, c ^o rd, c ^a ll, c ^a ul, l ^a w, g ^e orge, br ^a od, br
Δ	short	h ^o t, c ^o t, b ^o nd, l ^a urel, w ^h at, k ⁿ owledg ^e .
ν	long	b ^a r, m ^a rk, h ^a rp, p ^a rt ^y , a ^u nt, h ^e art.
//	short	g ^r amm ^a r, c ^e ll ^a r, h ^a z ^a rd, v ⁱ ney ^a rd, billi ^a rds.
\	long	m ^a re, p ^a re, f ^a re, th ^e re, wh ^e re.
.	short	m ^a rry, p ^a rry, p ^a n, c ^a n, g ^u arantee, th ^a t.
—	long	m ^a im, r ^a ve, m ^a y, g ^a in, b ^a y, v ^e in, gr ^e at, th ^e y.
/	short	m ^e rit, v ^e ry, m ^a ny, g ^u ess, s ^a id, br ^e ad, b ^u ry.
~	long	m ^e rcy, t ^e rm, c ⁱ rcl ^e , l ^e arn, w ^o rth, h ^u rtful, m ^y rt
∪	short	m ^a nn ^e r, d ^a ng ^e r, s ^o n, s ^u n, d ^o es, fl ^o od, c ^o nq ^u er, r.
..	long	w ^e , s ^e e, d ^e an, k ^e y, fi ^e ld, p ⁱ que, w ^a rrant ^y , c ^e il ⁱ n
..	short	c ⁱ t ^y , g ^u inea, pr ^e tt ^y , b ^e en, b ^u s ^y , h ^y mn, w ^o m ^e n, l ^e y
.	short	y ^a rd, r ^o yal, o ^c ean, y ^o u, s ^o cial, r ^e g ⁱ on.
:		k ⁿ ife, l ⁱ ke, fl ^y , fl ⁱ es, b ^y , b ^u y, h ⁱ gh, h ^e ight.
°	long	n ^o te, f ^o e, s ^o ul, d ^o e, b ^o w, s ^h ow, b ^o at, h ^a utboy.
^	short	n ^o vem ^b er, ech ^o , num ^e ro, potat ^o e, bor ^o ugh, bor ⁱ
°	long	pr ^o ve, r ^u le, s ^h oe, r ^o ot, s ^o up, tr ^u e, br ^e w.
(	short	b ^o som, f ^u ll, f ^o ot, c ^o uld, w ^o uld, w ^o od.
°	long	m ^u sic, h ^u man, t ^u be, d ^u e, fe ^u d, f ^e w.
^	short	m ^u sic ⁱ an, h ^u mane, virt ^u e.
~		o ^u r, fl ^o ur, fl ^o wer, n ^o w, h ^o w.

DIFFERENT SOUNDS of the SAME VOWEL.

A

<i>Long</i>	wāīl	alārm	bāre	māne
<i>Short</i>	wāllow	çellār	bārrel	māny

E

<i>Long</i>	thēre	.....	tērm	ēve
<i>Short</i>	.....	mēn	lētter	ēvent

I

<i>Long</i>	bīrd	pīque	pīke
<i>Short</i>	nādīr	pīck	.....

O

<i>Long</i>	bōrn	wōrm	.....	pōle	mōve
<i>Short</i>	bōnnēt	wōn	women	pōlite	wōlf

U

<i>Long</i>	.....	būrñ	.....	jūne	ūnit
<i>Short</i>	būry	būt	būsy	jūly	ūnite

Y

<i>Long</i>	mýrtle	quāy	flý
<i>Short</i>	martyr	hýmñ	.....

Although vowels are usually denominated *long* or *short*, to signify their quantity in composition, an attentive observer will perceive, that these terms are inadequate to describe their duration of sound in different situations. To distinguish all the varieties of quantity, a considerable number of marks would be requisite, in addition to those already employed, and this increase of number would become burdensome to the memory. Wherever an intermediate quantity occurs, the long sound will generally be marked, in preference to the short one.

Examples of intermediate quantity.

māle	female	māny
create	recreate	delicāte
prētor	pretext	prētty
ought	cough	of
lord	lost	lot

This nicety of distinction, if pursued, might probably be found very extensive, but being rather curious than useful, it is not deemed necessary for the present purpose.

Each vowel mark being restricted to one *invariable* sound, is equally applicable to single and double vowels, in all words wherein their sounds are similar.

Thus, the mark

^ is placed over a in ball ; o in morn ; au in taught ; aw in law ; eo in george ; oa in broad ; and ou in brought. This sound is broader, and more distinct, than in the French words morne, corde, alors, &c.

^ Denotes the same quality of sound, but short and quick ; as in what, not, laurel, knowledge.

^ The sound of a in mar ; of e in serjeant ; of au in aunt ; of ea in heart.

^ The same sound shortened ; as grammar, cellar, umbrella, among, about.

^ The sound of a in bare, fair ; of e in there, bear, and heir ; of ay in prayer, and mayor.

The same sound short and quick ; as in bat, fat, that, marry, guarantee : and in the French words canne, mari, garantie.

— The sound of the vowel in mate ; and of the double vowels in gain, vein, great, may, they ; and the French words gaine, haine, &c. The French however, pronounce these vowels shorter than the English.

✓ *The same sound short ; as mén, mány, búry, said, héifer, léopard, friënd, guéss.*

~ *The sound of e in tĕrm ; of i in fĭrm ; of o in wŏrm ; of u in ŭrn ; of y in mŷrtle ; and of ea in lĕarn. This sound is the same as that of the French eu in auteur, honneur, &c. but somewhat longer.*

^ *The same sound short ; (and equivalent to the French eu) as heard in the words lettĕr, elixĭr, şŏme, şŭm, martŷr, does, flood, double, conquĕr, liquor. This mark ^ is also placed over r, to distinguish that inflection of the voice by which the sound of r becomes final in päre, mãre, hĕre, hĭre, metĕre, centĕre, &c.*

The effect of ǝ in päre, mãre, hĕre, &c. will therefore be equal to ĭr in pǎir ; to ǝr in mayŏr ; to ǎr in hĕar ; to ĕr in highĕr, metĕr, &c.

.. *The horizontal dots for the sound of e in ĕve ; çĕde, hĕĕre, hĕĕr ; of i in pĭque, machĭne ; of ee in fĕĕl ; ea in şĕäl ; ei in çĕiling ; ie in fiĕld ; eo in pĕople ; ey in kĕy.*

.. *The oblique dots for the same sound shortened ; as prettŷ, grittŷ, busŷ, hŷmn, wŷmen, guĭnea, bŷld, bĕen, forfeit, vallĕy, vallies, plaguŷ, happŷ.*

• The single dot expresses the initial power of y, whether applied to that letter or any other, as yard, yet, royal, hallelujah, ocean, social, region, passion. NOTE, The single dot used for this purpose is not only larger, but is placed higher from the letter, than that used for the common i and j.

• The perpendicular dots denote the diphthongal sound of i, as heard in pine, fly, flies, height, by, buy. This sound is composed of *˘* and *˙*, the former pronounced with less force than the latter. (The perpendicular dots are preferred for convenience.) There is no sound in the French language exactly similar to this : the nearest is found in the words *laïque, naïf, naïveté*, but in these, the a is sounded with more force, than the first sound in the composition of the English diphthong i.

• The sound of o in *dome, note, door, roar, lore*, and of the double vowels in *boat, doe, soul, rower, lower*.

• The same sound shortened ; as *domestic, notation, borough, borrow*.

• The sound denoted by this mark is exactly similar to the French ou ; and is heard in the words *move, rule, brew, shoe, boot, soup, true, fruit*.

♣ *The same sound short; as wôlf, bull, fôot, còuld, wôod, wôuld.*

♣ *The long diphthongal sound of u, composed of y and ou as heard in the words use, use, unit, human, few, feud. There is no correspondent sound in the French language, but by the union of three vowels; as in the word chiourme, which is seldom used.*

♣ *The same sound shortened; as unite, humane, museum.*

♣ *This mark denotes the union of ~ and ^, the former pronounced much weaker than the latter; as in loud, round, flour, flower, now, how. The French vowels aou[^]t, approach the nearest to this sound.*

All the other compound vowel sounds in the English language are represented by combinations of these marks.

In these examples some monosyllables occur, which equally admit of the long, and the short sound; and this will depend on their being emphatical, or otherwise.

The reader will observe, that as the vowel mark fully expresses a certain sound, it is entirely independent of the vowel under it. Thus in the words see , sea , the sound is expressed by e followed by .. and the vowels under the mark are necessary with regard to orthography only. It may further be observed, that the mark placed over the centre of two vowels is not considered as belonging exclusively to either. In heart, great, bread, field, valley, broad, troop, double, &c. it is of no consequence to enquire which vowels are efficient, or otherwise, provided the words be correctly pronounced.

To prevent any misunderstanding respecting the sizes of the vowel marks, it may be proper to observe, that the same figure has always the same sound, whether large or small, the former being placed over double vowels, and the latter over single ones, whenever their sounds are similar.

According to the fourth principle of this notation, such consonants only are distinguished by Italics as would, if sounded, essentially corrupt the pronunciation of a word. Thus the *b* in debt, the *l* in talk, the *k* in know, the *h* in honour, humour, &c. are printed in *Italic*, to shew that they are totally silent. But

in passion, and mission, the second *p* is considered as merely redundant, its presence or absence having no effect on the sound of those words. *For the same reason*, million, valley, differ, better, packet, &c. are printed without any distinction of the middle consonants. It may here be proper to remark, that every letter is to have its distinct sound, unless otherwise directed. It may also be useful to observe, that although *e*, *i*, and *o* have no marks of sound in a great number of words ending in *ed*, *en*, *in*, and *on*, they have still an obscure, undefinable power in giving effect to the subsequent consonant. *Examples of this occur in* listen, lessen, lessen, reason, prison, raisin, cousin, deacon, garden, given, even, open, &c. *and in* listened, lessened, reasoned, opened, &c.

SIMPLE VOWEL SOUNDS.

A	
Long.	Short.
ā wārn, cāll, wāter.	ā wān, cōllar, wĥat.
à tār, alārm.	ā mortār, collār.
à mārē, tārē, cārē.	ā mārry, tārry, cārry.
ā māne, fāce.	ā māny, prefāce.
æ ægis, ægypt, cæsar.	ai agāin, çertain, şaid
ai gāin, attāin, aid.	au cauliflower, laudanum
au caul, laudable.	
au aunt, daunt, laugh.	
aw awl, dawn, law.	
āy dāy, gāy, wāy.	āy şunday, noseğay.
E	
ē şerjeant.	é tetter, fetter.
ē thēre, whēreſore.	ē şummēr, merçer.
ē tēte, fēte.	ē præceptor, prætty.
ē mērçbant, mērçer.	ea şerjeant, pağeant.
ē præcept, prætor.	ea threāt, breakfařt.
ea hearken, hearty.	ea guinea.
ea great, break.	
ea neāt, beām.	
ea leārn, eārly, şearçh.	
ēē bēē, fēē.	ēē bēēn, coffēē.

SIMPLE VOWEL SOUNDS.

<i>Long.</i>	<i>Short.</i>
ē vein, reign.	ē heifer, foreign.
ē conceit, deceit.	ē forfeit, surfeit.
ē height, sleight.	
ēo george.	
ēo people.	ēo leopard, jeopardy.
eu feud, feudal.	
ew brew, crew, flew.	
ew few, new, dew.	
ēy prey, they, convey.	
ēy key, ley.	ēy monkey, valley.

I

ī circle, bird, firm.	ī elixir, nadir.
ī pique, antique.	ī pick, antic.
ī like, knife, mind.	
ie chief, species.	ie mischief, mercies.
	ie friend, friendly.

O

ō north, border.	ō not, borrow.
ō worm, worthy.	ō worry, wonder.
ō mole, dome.	ō molest, domestic.

SIMPLE VOWEL SOUNDS.

Long.	Short.
ō move, prove.	ō wolf, bosom.
	o women.
oa broad, groat.	ea cupboard.
oa boat, coat, load.	oe cargoes, potatoes.
oe doe, does, goes.	oe does.
oe shoe, canoe.	oo blood, flood.
oo boot, cool, mood.	oo foot, wool, good.
ou ought, brought.	ou rough, double.
ou dough, though.	ou borough, thorough.
ou through, group.	ou could, would.
ou loud, round, sound.	ew borrow, wallow.
ow now, bow, town.	ow knowledge.
ow know, bow, row.	
ū burn, turn, hurt.	ū bun, tun, hut.
ū rule, June, flute.	ū pull, full, July.
u unit, human.	ū unite, humane.

SIMPLE VOWEL SOUNDS.

<i>Long.</i>	<i>Short.</i>
uā guard, guardian.	ú bury, burial.
ue true, blue.	û busy, business.
ue cue, due, hue.	ua piquant.
ui juice, fruit, recruit.	ua guarantee.
uy buy, guy.	ue guess, packet.
	ue conquer.
	ue construe.
	ue rescue, residue.
	ui build, guinea, circuit.
	uo liquor.
	uy plaguy.

Y

ÿ myrtle, myrmidon.	ÿ martyr.
ý by, my, fly, try, why.	
ÿ quay, warranty.	ÿ hymn, hypocrite.

MARKS COMBINED FOR COMPOUND SOUNDS.

ae	phaeton	ewe	ewer
ai	pair		jewel
aia	isaiah	eye	conveyer
aye	player	eyo	surveyor
	prayer		
ayo	mayor	ia	dial
			diameter
ea	pear		conciliate
	near		satisfate
	ocean	ie	satiety
ee	beer		society
	eer		soldier
ei	heir		orient
	their		fiery
eo	geography	io	violent
	surgeon		biography
	galleon		mediocrity
eu	righteous		minion
	duteous	iu	diurnal

MARKS COMBINED FOR COMPOUND SOUNDS.

iew	view	owe	rower
iou	precious		power
	glorious		
		ua	persuade
			equal
			equality
oa	roar	ue	question
	board		duel
oi	voice		cruel
	joint	ui	quit
	choir		quite
oo	door	uo	quorum
ou	pour		quondam
	hour	uy	obloquy
	your	uoy	buoy
oy	boy, toy		

A C C E N T.

Mr. SHERIDAN defines this term in the following manner. "Accent, in the English language, means "a certain stress of the voice upon a particular letter "of a syllable, which distinguishes it from the rest, "and at the same time, distinguishes the syllable itself to which it belongs, from the others which "compose the word. Thus in the word *hab·it*, the "accent upon the *b* distinguishes that letter from the "others, and the first syllable from the last."

As the accent in the word just quoted is unquestionably upon the consonant, and this case very frequently occurs, the author of the present essay was desirous of conforming to the practice of marking the accented *consonant*; but found that it would essentially interfere with the plan of his work. The position of the accent is therefore shewn by an *Italic vowel*; and this deviation from a rule which is becoming general, can be attended with no inconvenience, if the reader duly observes the *marks of sound*. Thus the *Italic vowels* in the *nouns* rebel, refuse, desert, torment, conduct, present, and in the *verbs* rebel, refuse, desert, torment, conduct, present, signify that in the former, the accent is on the first syllable, and in the latter, on the second. Nor, if due attention be paid to the marks of sound, can there be any error in pronouncing cable, cabin; famous, famine; favour, father; hero, herald; demon, devil; even, ever; bridle, bigot; rival, river; over, oven; proving, proverb; flora, florid; bugle, busy, ducal, ducat; cycle, cynic. See these words in the VOCABULARY.

Though grammarians generally agree on the nature and position of the single accent, there is a considerable difference of opinion respecting the necessity

of a secondary accent. This subject is examined by Mr. WALKER, in No. 523 and seq. of his "Principles of English Pronunciation," commencing with a definition of the term.

"The secondary accent," says Mr. Walker, "is that stress we may *occasionally* place upon another syllable, besides that which has the principal accent, in order to pronounce every part of the word more distinctly, forcibly, and harmoniously. Thus this accent may be placed on the first syllable of *conversation, commendation*, &c. There are few authors who have not taken notice of two accents upon some of the longer polysyllables, but none have once hinted, that one of these is not essential to the sound of the word : they seem to have supposed both accents equally necessary, and without any other difference than that one was pronounced more forcibly than the other. This mistake arose from a want of studying the speaking voice. A knowledge of this would have told them, that one accent only was essential to every word of more than one syllable, and that the secondary stress might or might not be adopted, as distinctness, force, or harmony, should require : thus *complaisant, contraband, caravan*, and *violin, partisan, courtesan, metaphysicks*, have frequently an accent on the first, as well as on the third syllable, though a somewhat less forcible one. The same may be observed of *repartee, referee, privateer, domineer*, &c. but it must still be observed, that though an accent be allowable on the first syllable of these words, it is by no means necessary : they may all be pronounced with one accent, and that on the last syllable, without the least deviation from propriety."

"OF THE INFLUENCE OF ACCENT ON THE
SOUNDS OF THE LETTERS."

From Walker's Principles, No. 69.

"The exertion of the organs of speech necessary to produce the accent or stress, has an obvious tendency to preserve the letters in their pure and uniform sound, while the relaxation or feebleness which succeeds the accent, as naturally suffers the letters to slide into a somewhat different sound, a little easier to the organs of pronunciation. Thus the first *a* in *cabbage*, is pronounced distinctly, with the true sound of that letter, while the second *a* goes into an obscure sound bordering on the *i* short, the slenderest of all sounds, so that *cabbage* and *village* have the *a* in the last syllable scarcely distinguishable from the *e*, and *i*, in the last syllables of *college* and *vestige*."

The author of the present essay conceives it a duty to acknowledge that he has received much assistance from Mr. WALKER's elaborate and valuable work on the "Principles of English pronunciation." Yet, in availing himself of Mr. Walker's labours, he has sometimes been compelled to dissent from his authority. In the present instance it may be suggested, that if the author of the "Principles" had taken the trouble of classing the vowels by their long and short sounds, he would have considered the *a* in *age*, *cabbage*, and *village*, as possessing identically, the same *quality of sound*, and differing only in *quantity*. The identity of the *a* in these words may be proved by gradually lengthening its sound in *cabbage* and *village*. By the same process it will also appear,

that the *e* in *college*, and the *i* in *vestige*, may be lengthened into *ee*, as *collegee*, *vesteege*.

"In like manner," Mr. Walker proceeds, "the
 " *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, and *y*, coming before *r* in a final unac-
 " cented syllable go into an obscure sound, so nearly
 " approaching the short *u*, that if the accent were
 " carefully kept on the first syllables of *liar*, *lier*,
 " *elixir*, *mayor*, *martyr*, &c. these words, without
 " any perceptible change in the sound of their last
 " syllables, might all be written and pronounced
 " *liur*, *liur*, *elixur*, *mayur*, *martur*, &c. The con-
 " sonants also are no less altered in their sound by
 " the position of the accent, than the vowels. The
 " *k* and *s* in the composition of *x* when the accent
 " is on them, in *exercise*, *execute*, &c. preserve their
 " strong, pure sound, but when the accent is on the
 " second syllable, in *exact*, *exonerate*, &c. these let-
 " ters slide into the duller, and weaker sounds of *g*
 " and *z*, which are easier to the organs of pronuncia-
 " tion. Hence, not only the soft *c* and *s* go into *sh*,
 " but even the *t* before a diphthong slides into the
 " same letters, when the stress is on the preceding
 " syllable. Thus in *society*, and *satiety*, the *c* and *t*
 " preserve their pure sound, because the syllables *ci*
 " and *ti* have the accent on them, but in *social*, and
 " *satiare*, these syllables come after the stress, and
 " from the feebleness of their situation, naturally fall
 " into the shorter, and easier sound, as if written
 " *soshial*, and *sashiate*."

VOCABULARY.

Simple vowel sounds combined with consonants.

A		C		E
all	brēw	call	cūrd	ēve
awl	brīg	caul	cūt	ēarth
art	bīrd	caul	cue	eye
aunt	bōrn	card		end
aid	bōnd	cart	D	
	boot	carve	dawn	
B	boat	can	daunt	face
ball	bow	cat	day	fall
bar	bow	chasm	date	fault
barb	bough	chaise	deem	fee
bay	broad	cell	dew	feud
babe	brought	cit	dirt	few
bang	burn	chief	dome	flew
bank	bun	chin	dough	fine
beam	but	cord	doe	fin
beaux	bull	cot	does	fix
break	blue	coat	does	firm
bread	build	cool	due	field
bee	buy	could	duke	friend
been	by	church	dumb	flies

VOCABULARY.

form	give	hymn	hit	M
fop	gibe	I	knife	malt
foe	goes	ice	know	mar
flood	ghost	ides	L	mark
found	groupe	isle	law	main
foot	good	it	lark	mane
full	guard	if	laugh	may
flue	guess	is	late	mat
frut	guy	J	let	mate
fly	H	jar	learn	met
G	hate	jane	ley	men
gall	hash	jaw	like	meet
gay	harp	jet	lick	mean
gain	heart	job	list	mine
game	high	job	low	mill
gem	height	june	load	mole
get	home	juice	loo	moat
george	hood	K	look	move
great	how	key	loud	mood
gill	hurt	kite	lute	morn
gin	hut		lull	mob

VOCABULARY.

nute	of	plume	rule	sink
muff	ought	pool	s	sit
my	owl	pull	salt	sole
N	P	quay	salve	soul
name	paw	raw	sack	soup
nay	pat	ray	same	shoe
nap	part	rage	said	should
net	pale	rate	stake	show
neat	pail	rave	steak	shock
new	praise	rain	search	sound
nice	prays	reign	sea	some
nick	phrase	red	seal	son
nor	prey	rid	see	sell
not	peak	ride	seen	sum
note	pique	rode	sell	sun
now	pike	road	sex	T
nut	pick	rose	sleight	tall
O	pine	root	sign	talk
ode	pin	rough	sin	taught
odd	pole		sing	tar
orb	prove		since	that

VOCABULARY.

tāme	tūn	vēin	wést	Y
tan	tune	veil	wē	yawl
tax	tube	vēal	whén	yārd
tērm	trūe	vile	wine	yēt
thén	try	vogue	win	yield
thréat	town	vōte	wink	yōke
thick	U	vōw	whīch	yōu
thin	urn	w	won	youth
thine	use	wall	worm	young
tone	use	warm	worth	Z
ton		warn	wool	
though	V	wan	wolf	zeal
through	van	what	wood	zinc
thought	vane	way	would	zed
turn	vain	well	why	

VOCABULARY.

Note. *The stress of the voice to be laid on the
Italian vowels.*

A		B	
altar	altar	baker	baker
adage	adage	balance	balance
action	action	banker	banker
accent	accent	bare	bare
antic	antic	barrel	barrel
ague	ague	beer	beer
avenue	avenue	berry	berry
azure	azure	breakfast	breakfast
ægis	ægis	bridle	bridle
ægypt	ægypt	bigot	bigot
about	about	bishop	bishop
among	among	billiards	billiards
again	again	border	border
alarm	alarm	borrow	borrow
attain	attain	borough	borough
adept	adept	brother	brother
assize	assize	bonnet	bonnet
antique	antique	board	board
articulate	articulate	bosom	bosom

VOCABULARY.

boy	boy	cauliflow ^{er}	cauliflow ^{er}
bugle	bugle	cæsar	cæsar
bury	bury	ceiling	ceiling
burial	burial	cellar	cellar
busy	busy	centre	centre
business	business	certain	certain
buoy	buoy	circle	circle
began	began	circuit	circuit
begin	begin	citer	citer
begun	begun	city	city
biography	biography	chicken	chicken
		coffee	coffee
		coarse	coarse
		course	course
		chol ^{er}	chol ^{er}
		colour	colour
		collar	collar
		cousin	cousin
		conduct	conduct
		congress	congress
		conquer	conquer
		construe	construe
C			
cable	cable		
cabin	cabin		
care	care		
carry	carry		
cargoes	cargoes		
carpet	carpet		
chaos	chaos		
character	character		
causeway	causeway		

VOCABULARY.

chair	chair	deacon	deacon
chorus	chorus	dear	dear
choir	choir	deer	deer
curate	curate	delicate	delicate
cruel	cruel	dedicate	dedicate
cupboard	cupboard	desert	desert
cycle	cycle	demon	demon
cynic	cynic	devil	devil
canoe	canoe	dial	dial
coerce	coerce	dialogue	dialogue
conceit	conceit	differ	differ
conduct	conduct	dollar	dollar
convey	convey	door	door
conveyer	conveyer	doer	doer
committee	committee	double	double
conciliate	conciliate	duel	duel
		ducal	ducal
		ducat	ducat
		duteous	duteous
dagger	dagger	deceit	deceit
damage	damage	defer	defer
dancer	dancer	desert	desert
danger	danger		

VOCABULARY.

divide	divide	évent	event
domain	domain	élect	elect
domestic	domestic	élixir	elixir
diurnal	diurnal	embargo	embargo
diameter	diameter	equality	equality
		esquire	esquire

E

ère	ere		F
éver	ever	falter	falter
écho	echo	farmer	farmer
égham	egham	fable	fable
even	even	famous	famous
évil	evil	famine	famine
éither	either	favour	favour
équal	equal	father	father
early	early	fare	fare
ewer	ewer	fair	fair
enough	enough	fashion	fashion
exact	exact	female	female
exert	exert	ferule	ferule
exist	exist	ferment	ferment
extol	extol	feudal	feudal

VOCABULARY.

ferment	ferment	G	
fire	fire	gallant	gallant
fiery	fiery	gaming	gaming
friendly	friendly	garden	garden
finger	finger	garter	garter
flora	flora	grammar	grammar
florid	florid	general	general
follow	follow	gentle	gentle
forfeit	forfeit	given	given
foreign	foreign	ginger	ginger
forage	forage	gritty	gritty
forest	forest	glorious	glorious
forbear	forbear	guardian	guardian
forbid	forbid	guinea	guinea
forgive	forgive	gazette	gazette
flower	flower	gallant	gallant
flour	flour	galleon	galleon
fully	fully	genteel	genteel
fusion	fusion	geography	geography
fury	fury	guarantee	guarantee
future	future	guilty	guilty

VOCABULARY.

H

hábit	habit	hóly	holy
háppy	happy	hóly	holly
házd	hazard	hónour	honour
hárdy	hardy	humour	humour
hálibút	halibut	human	human
háutboy	hautboy	húrtful	hurtful
héro	hero	hypocrite	hypocrite
hérald	herald	harangue	harangue
hére	here	humane	humane
héar	hear	hallelujah	hallelujah
héarken	hearken		
héarty	hearty		
héaling	healing		
héalthy	healthy		
héathen	heathen		
héaven	heaven		
héir	heir		
héifer	heifer		
híre	hire		
hígher	higher		
hóushold	houshold		

I

íicle	icicle
ídol	idol
íidle	idle
ínçense	incense
ínstant	instant
ímibibe	imbibe
ímpart	impart
ímpede	impede
ínçense	incense
ísaiah	isaiah

VOCABULARY.

J

jargon	jargon	language	language
jealous	jealous	laurel	laurel
jelly	jelly	laudable	laudable
jeopardy	jeopardy	laudanum	laudanum
jewel	jewel	laughter	laughter
jingle	jingle	letter	letter
joint	joint	leer	leer
journal	journal	leisure	leisure
jury	jury	lessen	lessen
japan	japan	lessened	lessened
july	july	lesson	lesson
		leopard	leopard

K

keeper	keeper	lining	lining
kettle	kettle	linen	linen
kitchen	kitchen	liquor	liquor
knowing	knowing	listen	listen
knowledge	knowledge	listened	listened
		lore	lore
		lower	lower
		longer	longer
		lucre	lucre

L

lady	lady		
ladder	ladder		

VOCABULARY.

lucky	lucky	merchant	merchant
lustre	lustre	mercier	mercier
		mercy	mercy
		merciés	merciés
M			
manger	manger	mitre	mitre
mangle	mangle	million	million
maniac	maniac	minion	minion
many	many	mission	mission
manner	manner	mischief	mischief
mandate	mandate	mortar	mortar
mansion	mansion	money	money
marble	marble	monkey	monkey
martyr	martyr	moment	moment
mare	mare	motion	motion
mayor	mayor	myrtle	myrtle
marry	marry	myrmidon	myrmidon
mariner	mariner	music	music
massacre	massacre	museum	museum
mere	mere	manœuvre	manœuvre
metre	metre	marine	marine
measure	measure	machine	machine
merit	merit	mishap	mishap

VOCABULARY.

molest	molest	O	
musician	musician	oar	oar
mediocrity	mediocrity	o'er	o'er
		ore	ore
		over	over
	N	oval	oval
nadir	nadir	oven	oven
nation	nation	object	object
native	native	odour	odour
natural	natural	offer	offer
nautical	nautical	office	office
near	near	orthoepy	orthoepy
neutral	neutral	ocean	ocean
ninety	ninety	open	open
noisy	noisy	opened	opened
northern	northern	orient	orient
nosegay	nosegay	obloquy	obloquy
nothing	nothing	our	our
novel	novel	orbit	orbit
numero	numero	osier	osier
nocturnal	nocturnal	obey	obey
november	november	object	object
notation	notation		

VOCABULARY.

ômit	omit	pêar	pear
ôration	oration	pén ^{ion} ion	pension
		pêople	people
		prêcept	precept
		prêtôr	pretor
		prêtty	pretty
		prêçious	precious
		prêface	preface
		présent	present
		pilot	pilot
		piquant	piquant
		philip	philip
		poor	poor
		pore	pore
		pour	pour
		powër	power
		prison	prison
		profit	profit
		prophét	prophet
		proving	proving
		proverb	proverb
		pully	pully

VOCABULARY.

pupîl	pupîl	R	
păpă	papa	rafter	rafter
piquet	piquet	raisin	raisin
persuade	persuade	rare	rare
police	police	rapid	rapid
polite	polite	rear	rear
pursue	pursue	rebel	rebel
present	present	refuse	refuse
pretend	pretend	rescue	rescue
pretext	pretext	recreate	recreate
preceptor	preceptor	residue	residue
potatoe	potatoe	region	region
		reason	reason
		reasoned	reasoned
quadrant	quadrant	righteous	righteous
quarter	quarter	rival	rival
query	query	river	river
quit	quit	roar	roar
quite	quite	rower	rower
question	question	royal	royal
quondam	quondam	ruby	ruby
quorum	quorum	rubber	rubber

VOGABULARY.

rebel	rebel	şolo	solo
recede	recede	şoldier	soldier
recite	recite	şocial	social
regard	regard	şummer	summer
refuse	refuse	şunday	sunday
resign	resign	şurfeit	surfeit
robust	robust	şurgēon	surgeon
recruit	recruit	şalute	salute
rotation	rotation	şcrete	secrete
		şincere	sincere
		şuffice	suffice
		şupērb	superb
şabre	sabre	şubdue	subdue
şacrifice	sacrifice	şurvey	survey
şatiate	satiate	şatiety	satiety
şerjeant	serjeant	şociety	society
şecret	secret		
şeizure	seizure		
şpecies	species		
şpecious	specious		
şpecial	special		
ştephen	stephen		
şilent	silent		

T

tare	tare
tarry	tarry
table	table
tablet	tablet

VOCABULARY.

tēnder	tender	ūmbrellā	umbrella
thēatre	theatre	ūphold	uphold
thēatric	theatric	ūpon	upon
thēre	there	ūnbend	unbend
thērefore	therefore	ūsurper	usurper
thēir	their	ūtensil	utensil
tōrment	tortment		
tōwards	towards		V
tōy	toy	vācant	vacant
thōrough	thorough	vālid	valid
tōrment	tortment	vāluē	value
trūstēē	trustee	vālley	valley
tōbacco	tobacco	vāllies	vallies
tōgethēr	together	vāpour	vapour
		vārnish	varnish
		vēnus	venus
U		vénison	venison
ūnit	unit	vērson	version
ūnity	unity	vērý	very
ūnion	union	vīal	vial
ūncle	uncle	vīolēt	violent
ūnder	under	vīrtuē	virtue
ūnite	unite		

VOCABULARY.

victuals	victuals	woven	woven
view	view	wonder	wonder
village	village	worthy	worthy
vineyard	vineyard	woman	woman
visit	visit	women	women
vision	vision	within	within
voice	voice	without	without

W

wafer	wafer
warble	warble
water	water
wallow	wallow
ware	ware
were	were
where	where
wherefore	wherefore
whether	whether
weather	weather
wider	wider
widow	widow
winding	winding
window	window

X

xenophon	xenophon
xerxes	xerxes

Y

year	year
yearly	yearly
yellow	yellow
yonder	yonder
yeoman	yeoman
your	your

Z

zany	zany
zealous	zealous
zephyr	zephyr

RASSELAS,
PRINCE OF ABYSSINIA :

BY DR. JOHNSON.

The marks indicating the sounds of the letters are printed on the left hand page ; on the opposite page the same matter is repeated, word for word, and the accented syllable distinguished by an Italic vowel.

Silent letters are noted on the left hand page only ; the vowels by having no marks placed over them, as a e i o u , and the consonants by Italics, as, b c d f g h k l m n p r s t w y.

RASSELAS.

ye who listen with credulity to the whispers of fancy, and pursue with eagerness the phantoms of hope; who expect that age will perform the promises of youth, and that the deficiencies of the present day will be supplied by the morrow; attend to the history of rasselas, prince of abyssinia. rasselas was the fourth son of the mighty emperor in whose dominions the father of waters begins his course; whose bounty pours down the streams of plenty, and scatters over half the world, the harvests of ægypt. according to the custom which has descended from age to age among the monarchs of the torrid zone, rasselas was confined in a private palace, with the other sons and daughters of abyssinian royalty, till the order of succession should call him to the throne. the place which the wisdom, or policy of antiquity had destined for the residence of the abyssinian princes was a spacious valley in the kingdom of amhara, surrounded on every side by mountains of which the summits overhang the middle part. the only passage by which

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it could be entered was a cavern that passed under a rock, of which it has long been disputed, whether it was the work of nature, or of human industry. the outlet of the cavern was concealed by a thick wood, and the mouth which opened into the valley was closed with gates of iron, forged by the artificers of ancient days, so massy, that no man could, without the help of engines, open or shut them. from the mountains on every side rivulets descended that filled the valley with verdure and fertility, and formed a lake in the middle, inhabited by fish of every species, and frequented by every fowl whom nature has taught to dip the wing in water. this lake discharged its superfluities by a stream which entered a dark cleft of the mountain on the northern side, and fell with dreadful noise from precipice to precipice, till it was heard no more. the sides of the mountains were covered with trees, the banks of the brooks were diversified with flowers, every blast shook spices from the rocks, and every month dropped fruits upon the ground. all animals that bite the grass or brouse the shrub, whether wild or tame, wandered in this extensive circuit, secured from beasts of prey by the mountains which confined them. on one part were flocks and herds feeding in the pastures, on another all the beasts

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of chase frisking in the lawns ; the sprightly kid was bounding on the rocks, the subtle monkey frolicking in the trees, and the solemn elephant reposing in the shade. all the diversities of the world were brought together ; the blessings of nature were collected, and its evils extracted and excluded. the valley, wide and fruitful, supplied its inhabitants with the necessities of life, and all delights and superfluities were added at the annual visit which the emperor paid his children ; when the iron gate was opened to the sound of musick, and during eight days, every one that resided in the valley was required to propose whatever might contribute to make seclusion pleasant, to fill up the vacancies of attention, and lessen the tediousness of time. every desire was immediately granted. all the artificers of pleasure were called to gladden the festivity ; the musicians exerted the power of harmony, and the dancers showed their activity before the princes, in hope that they should pass their lives in this blissful captivity ; to which those only were admitted whose performance was thought able to add novelty to luxury. such was the appearance of security and delight which this retirement afforded, that they to whom it was new always desired that it might be perpetual ; and as those on whom the iron gate had once

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closed were never suffered to return, the effect of longer experience could not be known. thus every year produced new schemes of delight, and new competitors for imprisonment. the palace stood on an

eminence raised about thirty paces above the surface of the lake. it was divided into many squares, or courts, built with greater or less magnificence, according to the rank of those for whom they were designed. the roofs were turned into arches of massy stone joined by a cement that grew harder by time, and the building stood from century to century, deriding the solstitial rains and equinoctial hurricanes, without need of reparation.

this house, which was so large as to be fully known to none but some ancient officers who successively inherited the secrets of the place, was built as if suspicion herself had dictated the plan : to every room there was an open and a secret passage ; every square had a communication with the rest, either from the upper stories by private galleries, or by subterranean passages from the lower apartments. many of the columns had unsuspected cavities, in which a long race of monarchs had reposed their treasures. they then closed up the opening with marble, which was never to be removed but in the utmost exigencies of the kingdom, and recorded their accumulations in a book, which

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was itself concealed in a tower not entered but by the emperor, attended by the prince who stood next in succession.

here the sons and daughters of abyssinia lived only to know the soft vicissitudes of pleasure and repose, attended by all that were skilful to delight, and gratified with whatever the senses can enjoy. they wandered in gardens of fragrance, and slept in the fortresses of security. every art was practised to make them pleased with their own condition.

the sages who instructed them told them of nothing but the miseries of publick life, and described all beyond the mountains as regions of calamity, where discord was always raging, and where man preyed upon man.

to heighten their opinion of their own felicity they were daily entertained with songs, the subject of which was the 'happy valley.' their appetites were excited by frequent enumerations of different enjoyments, and revelry and merriment was the business of every hour from the dawn of morning to the close of even.

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ery. thus they rose in the morning and lay down at night, pleased with each other and with themselves : all but rasselas ; who in the twenty-sixth year of his age began to withdraw himself from their pastimes and assemblies, and to delight in solitary walks and silent meditation. he often sat before tables covered with luxury and forgot to taste the dainties that were placed before him ; he rose abruptly in the midst of the song, and hastily retired beyond the sound of musick. his attendants observed the change, and endeavoured to renew his love of pleasure : he neglected their officiousness, repulsed their invitations, and spent day after day on the banks of rivulets sheltered with trees ; where he sometimes listened to the birds in the branches, sometimes observed the fish playing in the stream, and anon cast his eyes upon the pastures and mountains filled with animals, of which some were biting the herbage, and some sleeping among the bushes. this singularity of his humour made him much observed. one of the sages in whose conversation he had formerly delighted followed him secretly, in hope of discovering the cause of his disquiet. rasselas, who knew not that any one was near him, having for some time fixed his eyes upon the goats that were browsing among the rocks, began to compare their condition with his own. ' what,' said he,

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makes the difference between man and all the rest of the animal creation? every beast that strays beside me has the same corporal necessities with myself; he is hungry and crops the grass, he is thirsty and drinks the stream, his thirst and hunger are appeased, he is satisfied and sleeps; he rises again and is hungry, he is again fed and is at rest. i am hungry and thirsty like him, but when thirst and hunger cease i am not at rest; i am like him pained with want, but am not like him satisfied with fulness. the intermediate hours are tedious and gloomy; i long again to be hungry that i may again quicken my attention. the birds peck the berries or the corn and fly away to the groves, where they sit in seeming happiness on the branches, and waste their lives in tuning one unvaried series of sounds. i likewise can call the lutamist and the singer, but the sounds that pleased me yesterday weary me to-day, and will grow yet more wearisome to-morrow; i can discover within me no power of perception which is not glutted with its proper pleasure; yet i do not feel myself delighted: man surely has some latent sense for which this place affords no gratification, or he has some desires distinct from sense, which must be satisfied before he can be happy. after this, he lifted up his head, and seeing the moon rising, walked towards the palace. as he

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passed through the fields and saw the animals "around him, 'ye,' said he, 'are happy, and need not envy me that walk thus among you burdened with myself; nor do i, ye gentle beings, envy your felicity, for it is not the felicity of man. i have many distresses from which ye are free, i fear pain when i do not feel it; i sometimes shrink at evils recollected, and sometimes start at evils anticipated: surely the equity of providence has balanced peculiar sufferings with peculiar enjoyments.' with observations like these the prince amused himself as he returned, uttering them with a plaintive voice, yet with a look that discovered him to feel some complacency in his own perspicacity, and to receive some solace of the miseries of life from consciousness of the delicacy with which he felt, and the eloquence with which he bewailed them. he mingled cheerfully in the diversions of the evening, and all rejoiced to find that his heart was lightened.

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The old man thus encouraged began to lament the change which had been lately observed in the prince, and to inquire why he so often retired from the pleasures of the palace to loneliness and silence. 'i fly from pleasure,' said the prince, 'because pleasure has ceased to please; i am lonely because i am miserable, and am unwilling to cloud with my presence the happiness of others.' 'you, sir,' said the sage, 'are the first who has complained of misery in the happy valley. i hope to convince you that your complaints have no real cause. you are here in full possession of all that the emperor of abyssinia can bestow; here is neither labour to be endured, nor danger to be dreaded, yet here is all that labour or danger can procure or purchase. look round and tell me which of your wants is without supply: if you want nothing how are you unhappy?' 'that i want nothing.'

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said the prince, 'or that i know not what i want is the cause of my complaint ; if i had any known want i should have a certain wish, that wish would excite endeavour, and i should not then repine to see the sun move so slowly towards the western mountain, or lament when the day breaks, and sleep will no longer hide me from myself. when i see the kids and the lambs chasing one another, i fancy that i should be happy if i had something to pursue : but possessing all that i can want, i find one day and one hour exactly like another, except that the latter is still more tedious than the former. let your experience inform me how the day may now seem as short as in my childhood, while nature was yet fresh, and every moment showed me what i never had observed before. i have already enjoyed too much : give me something to desire.' the old man was surprised at this new species of affliction, and knew not what to reply, yet was unwilling to be silent. 'sir,' said he, 'if you had seen the miseries of the world you would know how to value your present state.' 'now,' said the prince, 'you have given me something to desire. i shall long to see the miseries of the world : since the sight of them is necessary to happiness.' at this time the sound of musick proclaimed the hour of repast, and the conversation was concluded. the old

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man went away sufficiently discontented to find that his reasonings had produced the only conclusion which they were intended to prevent. but in the decline of life shame and grief are of short duration : whether it be, that we bear easily what we have born long, or, that finding ourselves in age less regarded we less regard others, or, that we look with slight regard upon afflictions to which we know that the hand of death is about to put an end. the prince, whose views were extended to a wider space could not speedily quiet his emotions. he had been before terrified at the length of life which nature promised him, because he considered that in a long time much must be endured ; he now rejoiced in his youth, because in many years much might be done. this first beam of hope that had been ever darted into his mind rekindled youth in his cheeks, and doubled the lustre of his eyes. he was fired with the desire of doing something ; though he knew not yet with distinctness, either end or means. he was now no longer gloomy and unsocial ; but considering himself as master of a secret stock of happiness, which he could enjoy only by concealing it, he affected to be busy in all schemes of diversion, and endeavoured to make others pleased with the state of which he himself was weary. but pleasures never can be so multiplied, or continued,

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as not to leave much of life unemployed. there were many hours both of the night and day, which he could spend without suspicion in solitary thought. the load of life was much lightened ; he went eagerly into the assemblies, because he supposed the frequency of his presence necessary to the success of his purposes. he retired gladly to privacy, because he had now a subject of thought. his chief amusement was to picture to himself that world which he had never seen ; to place himself in various conditions ; to be entangled in imaginary difficulties ; and to be engaged in wild adventures : but his benevolence always terminated his projects in the relief of distress ; the detection of fraud ; the defeat of oppression ; and the diffusion of happiness. thus passed twenty months of the life of rasselas. he busied himself so intensely in visionary bustle that he forgot his real solitude, and amidst hourly preparations for the various incidents of human affairs, neglected to consider by what means he should mingle with mankind. one day, as he was sitting on a bank, he feigned to himself an orphan virgin robbed of her little portion by a treacherous lover, and crying after him for restitution and redress. so strongly was the image impressed upon his mind, that he started up in the maid's defence, and ran forward to seize the plunderer,

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with all the eagerness of real pursuit. fear naturally quickens the flight of guilt. rascals could not catch the fugitive with his utmost efforts ; but resolving to weary by perseverance, him whom he could not surpass in speed, he pressed on till the foot of the mountain stopped his course. here he recollected himself, and smiled at his own useless impetuosity. then raising his eyes to the mountain, 'this,' said he, 'is the fatal obstacle that hinders at once the enjoyment of pleasure, and the exercise of virtue. how long is it that my hopes and wishes have flown beyond this boundary of my life which yet i never have attempted to surmount ?' struck with this reflection he sat down to muse, and remembered, that since he first resolved to escape from his confinement the sun had passed twice over him in his annual course. he now felt a degree of regret with which he had never been before acquainted. he considered how much might have been done in the time which had passed, and left nothing real behind it. he compared twenty months with the life of man : 'in life,' said he, 'is not to be counted the ignorance of infancy, or imbecility of age. we are long before we are able to think, and we soon cease from the power of acting. the true period of human existence may be reasonably estimated at forty years ; of which i have mused away

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successive sentinels, and was, by its position, exposed to the perpetual observation of all the inhabitants. he then examined the cavern through which the waters of the lake were discharged, and looking down at a time when the sun shone strongly upon its mouth, he discovered it to be full of broken rocks, which though they permitted the stream to flow through many narrow passages, would stop any body of solid bulk. he returned discouraged and dejected ; but having now known the blessing of hope, resolved never to despair. in these fruitless searches he spent ten months. the time however passed cheerfully away ; in the morning he rose with new hope ; in the evening applauded his own diligence ; and in the night slept sound after his fatigue. he met a thousand amusements, which beguiled his labour and diversified his thoughts. he discerned the various instincts of animals and properties of plants, and found the place replete with wonders, of which he purposed to solace himself with the contemplation, if he should never be able to accomplish his flight, rejoicing that his endeavours though yet unsuccessful, had supplied him with a source of inexhaustible inquiry. but his original curiosity was not yet abated ; he resolved to obtain some knowledge of the ways of men. his wish still continued, but his hope

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he saw that the design was practicable upon a level surface, and with expressions of great esteem, solicited its completion. the workman was pleased to find himself so much regarded by the prince, and resolved to gain yet higher honours. 'sir,' said he, 'you have seen but a small part of what the mechanick sciences can perform. i have been long of opinion, that instead of the tardy conveyance of ships and chariots, man might use the swifter migration of wings; that the fields of air are open to knowledge, and that only ignorance and idleness need crawl upon the ground.' this hint rekindled the prince's desire of passing the mountains. having seen what the mechanist had already performed, he was willing to fancy, that he could do more; yet resolved to inquire further before he suffered hope to afflict him by disappointment. 'i am afraid,' said he to the artist, 'that your imagination prevails over your skill, and that you now tell me rather what you wish, than what you know. every animal has his element assigned him; the birds have the air, and man and beasts the earth.' 'so,' replied the mechanist, 'fishes have the water, in which yet beasts can swim by nature, and men by art. he that can swim needs not despair to fly; to swim is to fly in a grosser fluid, and to fly is to swim in a subtler. we are only to propor-

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from our power of resistance to the different density of the matter through which we are to pass. you will be necessarily upborn by the air, if you can renew any impulse upon it faster than the air can recede from the pressure.' 'but the exercise of swimming,' said the prince, 'is very laborious, the strongest limbs are soon wearied; i am afraid the act of flying will be yet more violent, and wings will be of no great use, unless we can fly further than we can swim.' 'the labour of rising from the ground,' said the artist, 'will be great, as we see it in the heavier domestick fowls; but as we mount higher, the earth's attraction and the body's gravity will be gradually diminished, till we shall arrive at a region where the man will float in the air, without any tendency to fall. no care will then be necessary, but to move forwards, which the gentlest impulse will effect. you, sir, whose curiosity is so extensive, will easily conceive with what pleasure a philosopher, furnished with wings and hovering in the sky, would see the earth, and all its inhabitants, rolling beneath him and presenting to him successively, by its diurnal motion, all the countries within the same parallel. how must it amuse the pendent spectator to see the moving scene of land and ocean, cities and deserts! to survey with equal security, the marts of trade, and

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‘ nothing,’ replied the artist, ‘ will ever be attempted, if all possible objections must be first overcome. if you will favour my project, i will try the first flight at my own hazard. i have considered the structure of all volant animals, and find the folding continuity of the bat’s wings most easily accommodated to the human form. upon this model i shall begin my task to-morrow ; and in a year, expect to tower into the air beyond the malice and pursuit of man. but i will work only on this condition ; that the art shall not be divulged, and that you shall not require me to make wings for any but ourselves.’

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the rain continued longer and with more violence than had been ever known : the clouds broke on the surrounding mountains, and the torrents streamed into the plain on every side, till the cavern was too narrow to discharge the water. the lake overflowed its banks, and all the level of the valley was covered with the inundation. the eminence on which the palace was built, and some other spots of rising ground were all that the eye could now discover. the herds and flocks left the pastures ; and

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both the wild beasts and the tame retreated to the mountains. this inundation confined all the princes to domestick amusements ; and the attention of razeelas was particularly seized by a poem, which imlac rehearsed upon the various conditions of humanity. he desired the poet to attend him in his apartment and recite his verses a second time ; then entering into familiar talk, he thought himself happy in having found a man who knew the world so well, and could so skilfully paint the scenes of life. he asked a thousand questions about things to which, though common to all other mortals, his confinement from childhood had kept him a stranger. the poet pitied his ignorance and loved his curiosity, and entertained him from day to day with novelty and instruction : so that the prince regretted the necessity of sleep, and longed till the morning should renew his pleasure. as they were sitting together, the prince desired imlac to relate his history, and to tell by what accident he was forced, or by what motive induced, to close his life in the happy valley. as he was going to begin his narrative, razeelas was called to a concert, and obliged to restrain his curiosity till the evening. the close of the day is, in the regions of the torrid zone, the only season of diversion and entertainment ; and it was therefore midnight before the

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musick ceased, and the princesses retired. Casselas then called for his companion, and required him to begin the story of his life.

'sir,' said imlac, my life will not be long. the life that is devoted to knowledge passes silently away, and is very little diversified by events : to talk in publick, to think in solitude ; to read, and to hear ; to inquire, and answer inquiries ; is the business of a scholar. he wanders about the world without pomp or terrour, and is neither known nor valued, but by men like himself.

i was born in the kingdom of goiama, at no great distance from the fountain of the Nile. my father was a wealthy merchant, who traded between the inland countries of africa and the ports of the red sea. he was honest, frugal, and diligent ; but of mean sentiments, and narrow comprehension. he desired only to be rich, and to conceal his riches ; lest he should be spoiled by the governours of the province.

'surely,' said the prince, 'my father must be negligent of his charge, if any man in his dominions dares take that which belongs to another. does he not know, that kings are accountable for injustice permitted, as well as done ? if i were emperor, not the meanest of my subjects should be oppressed with impunity. my blood boils, when i am told that a merchant durst not enjoy his honest gains, for fear of losing

music ceased, and the princesses retired. Rasselas then called for his companion, and required him to begin the story of his life. 'Sir,' said Imlac, 'my history will not be long. The life that is devoted to knowledge passes silently away, and is very little diversified by events : to talk in publick, to think in solitude ; to read, and to hear ; to inquire, and answer inquiries, is the business of a scholar. He wanders about the world without pomp or terrour, and is neither known nor valued, but by men like himself. I was born in the kingdom of Goizama, at no great distance from the fountain of the Nile. My father was a wealthy merchant, who traded between the inland countries of Africk and the ports of the Red Sea. He was honest, frugal, and diligent ; but of mean sentiments, and narrow comprehension. He desired only to be rich, and to conceal his riches ; lest he should be spoiled by the governors of the province.' 'Surely,' said the prince, 'my father must be negligent of his charge, if any man in his dominions dares take that which belongs to another. Does he not know, that kings are accountable for injustice permitted, as well as done ? If I were emperor, not the meanest of my subjects should be oppressed with impunity. My blood boils, when I am told that a merchant durst not enjoy his honest gains, for fear of losing

them by the rapacity of power. name the governour who robbed the people, that i may declare his crimes to the emperour.' 'sir,' said imlac, 'your ardour is the natural effect of virtue, animated by youth ; the time will come when you will acquit your father, and perhaps hear with less impatience of the governour. oppression is in the abyssinian dominions, neither frequent nor tolerated, but no form of government has been yet discovered, by which cruelty can be wholly prevented. subordination supposes power on one part, and subjection on the other ; and if power be in the hands of men, it will sometimes be abused. the vigilance of the supreme magistrate may do much ; but much will still remain undone. he can never know all the crimes that are committed ; and can seldom punish all that he knows.' 'this,' said the prince, 'i do not understand : but i had rather hear thee than dispute. continue thy narration.' 'my father,' proceeded imlac, 'originally intended, that i should have no other education than such as might qualify me for commerce ; and discovering in me great strength of memory and quickness of apprehension, often declared his hope that i should be some time the richest man in abyssinia.' 'why,' said the prince, 'did thy father desire the increase of his wealth, when it was already greater than

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me in commerce ; and opening one of his subterranean treasures, counted out ten thousand pieces of gold. 'this, young man,' said he, 'is the stock with which you must negotiate. i began with less than the fifth part, and you see how diligence and parsimony have increased it. this is your own, to waste or to improve. if you squander it by negligence or caprice, you must wait for my death before you will be rich ; if in four years you double your stock, we will thenceforward let subordination cease, and live together as friends and partners ; for he shall always be equal with me, who is equally skilled in the art of growing rich.' we laid our money upon camels, concealed in bales of cheap goods, and travelled to the shore of the red sea. when i cast my eye on the expanse of waters, my heart bounded like that of a prisoner escaped. i felt an unextinguishable curiosity kindle in my mind ; and resolved to snatch this opportunity of seeing the manners of other nations, and of learning sciences unknown in abyssinia. i remembered, that my father had obliged me to the improvement of my stock, not by a promise, which i ought not to violate ; but by a penalty, which i was at liberty to incur : and therefore determined to gratify my predominant desire, and by drinking at the fountains of knowledge, to quench the thirst of curiosity.

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the art of navigation, which i have never practised, and sometimes by forming schemes for my conduct in different situations, in not one of which i have been ever placed. i was almost weary of my naval amusements, when we landed safely at surat. i secured my money, and purchasing some commodities for show, joined myself to a caravan that was passing into the inland country. my companions, for some reason or other, conjecturing that i was rich, and by my inquiries and admiration finding that i was ignorant, considered me as a novice whom they had a right to cheat, and who was to learn, at the usual expense, the art of fraud. they exposed me to the theft of servants and the execution of officers, and saw me plundered upon false pretences, without any advantage to themselves, but that of rejoicing in the superiority of their own knowledge. 'stop a moment,' said the prince, 'is there such depravity in man, as that he should injure another without benefit to himself? i can easily conceive that all are pleased with superiority, but your ignorance was merely accidental, which being neither your crime nor your folly, could afford them no reason to applaud themselves: and the knowledge which they had, and which you wanted, they might as effectually have shown by warning, as betraying you.' 'pride,' said ismail, 'is

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merchants with whom i had travelled applied to me for recommendations to the ladies of the court. i was surprised at their confidence of solicitation ; and gently reproached them with their practices on the road. they heard me with cold indifference, and showed no tokens of shame or sorrow. they then urged their request with the offer of a bribe, but what i would not do for kindness, i would not do for money ; and refused them, not because they had injured me, but because i would not enable them to injure others : for i knew they would have made use of my credit to cheat those who should buy their wares. having resided at agra till there was no more to be learned, i travelled into persia, where i saw many remains of ancient magnificence, and observed many new accommodations of life. the persians are a nation eminently social, and their assemblies afforded me daily opportunities of remarking characters and manners, and of tracing human nature through all its variations. from persia i passed into arabia, where i saw a nation at once pastoral and warlike ; who live without any settled habitation ; whose only wealth is their flocks and herds ; and who have yet carried on through all ages, an hereditary war with all mankind, though they neither covet nor envy their possessions. wherever i went, i found that

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hours. tell me whether you went when you had seen persia.' 'from persia,' said the poet, 'i travelled through syria, and for three years resided in palestine, where i conversed with great numbers of the northern and western nations of europe, the nations which are now in possession of all power and all knowledge : whose armies are irresistible, and whose fleets command the remotest parts of the globe. when i compared these men with the natives of our own kingdom and those that surround us, they appeared almost another order of beings. in their countries, it is difficult to wish for any thing that may not be obtained ; a thousand arts of which we never heard, are continually labouring for their convenience and pleasure ; and whatever their own climate has denied them is supplied by their commerce.' 'by what means,' said the prince, 'are the europeans thus powerful, or why, since they can so easily visit asia and africa for trade or conquest, cannot the asiatics and africans invade their coasts, plant colonies in their ports, and give laws to their natural princes ? the same wind that carries them back would bring us thither.' 'they are more powerful, sir, than we,' answered imlac, 'because they are wiser. knowledge will always predominate over ignorance, as man governs the other animals. but why

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their knowledge is more than ours, i know not what reason can be given, but the unsearchable will of the supreme being.' 'When,' said the prince, with a sigh, 'shall i be able to visit palestine, and mingle with this mighty confluence of nations? till that happy moment shall arrive, let me fill up the time with such representations as thou canst give me. i am not ignorant of the motive that assembles such numbers in that place, and cannot but consider it as the centre of wisdom and piety, to which the best and wisest men of every land must be continually resorting.' 'there are some nations,' said imlac, 'that send few visitants to palestine: for many numerous and learned sects in europe concur to censure pilgrimage as superstitious, or deride it as ridiculous.' 'you know,' said the prince, 'how little my life has made me acquainted with diversity of opinions. it will be too long to hear the arguments on both sides; you that have considered them, tell me the result.' 'pilgrimage,' said imlac, 'like many other acts of piety, may be reasonable or superstitious, according to the principles upon which it is performed. long journeys in search of truth are not commanded. truth, such as is necessary to the regulation of life, is always found where it is honestly sought. change of place is no natural cause of the

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increase of piety ; for it inevitably produces dissipation of mind. yet, since men go every day to view the fields where great actions have been performed, and return with stronger impressions of the event, curiosity of the same kind may naturally dispose us to view that country whence our religion had its beginning ; and i believe no man surveys those awful scenes without some confirmation of holy resolutions. that the supreme being may be more easily propitiated in one place than in another is the dream of idle superstition, but that some places may operate upon our minds in an uncommon manner, is an opinion which hourly experience will justify. he who supposes that his vices may be more successfully combated in palestine will perhaps find himself mistaken : yet he may go thither without folly. he who thinks they will be more freely pardoned, dishonours at once his reason and his religion.' ' these,' said the prince, ' are european distinctions. i will consider them another time. what have you found to be the effect of knowledge ? are those nations happier than we ? ' ' there is so much infelicity in the world,' said the poet, ' that scarce any man has leisure from his own distresses, to estimate the comparative happiness of others. knowledge is certainly one of the means of pleasure, as is confessed by the natural desire which every

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mind feels of increasing its ideas. ignorance is mere privation, by which nothing can be produced : it is a vacuity, in which the soul sits motionless and torpid for want of attraction, and without knowing why, we always rejoice when we learn, and grieve when we forget. i am therefore inclined to conclude, that if nothing counteracts the natural consequence of learning, we grow more happy as our minds take a wider range. in enumerating the particular comforts of life, we shall find many advantages on the side of the europeans. they cure wounds and diseases with which we languish and perish. we suffer inclemencies of weather which they can obviate. they have engines for the dispatch of many laborious works, which we must perform by manual industry. there is such communication between distant places, that one friend can hardly be said to be absent from another. their policy removes all publick inconveniences ; they have roads cut through their mountains ; and bridges laid upon their rivers ; and, if we descend to the privacies of life, their habitations are more commodious, and their possessions are more secure. ' they are surely happy,' said the prince, ' who have all these conveniences ; of which i envy none so much, as the facility with which separated friends interchange their thoughts.' ' the europeans,' answered imlac, ' are less unhappy

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than we ; but they are not happy. human life is every where, a state in which much is to be endured, and little to be enjoyed.' 'i am not yet willing,' said the prince, 'to suppose that happiness is so parsimoniously distributed to mortals ; nor can believe, but that if i had the choice of life, i should be able to fill every day with pleasure. i would injure no man, and should provoke no resentment. i would relieve every distress, and should enjoy the blessings of gratitude. i would choose my friends among the wise, and my wife among the virtuous ; and therefore should be in no danger from treachery or unkindness : my children should by my care be learned and pious, and would repay to my age what their childhood had received. what would dare to molest him who might call on every side to thousands, enriched by his bounty or assisted by his power ? and why should not life glide quietly away in the soft reciprocation of protection and reverence ? all this may be done without the help of european refinements : which appear by their effects to be rather specious than useful. let us leave them and pursue our journey.' 'from palestine,' said imlac, 'i passed through many regions of asia ; in the more civilized kingdoms as a trader, and among the barbarians of the mountains as a pilgrim. at last i began to long for my native coun-

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try ; that i might repose, after my travels and fatigues, in the places where i had spent my earliest years, and gladden my old companions with the recital of my adventures. often did i figure to myself those with whom i had sported away the gay hours of dawning life, sitting round me in its evening ; wondering at my tales, and listening to my counsels. When this thought had taken possession of my mind, i considered every moment as wasted, which did not bring me nearer to abyssinia. i hastened into ægypt ; and notwithstanding my impatience, was detained ten months in the contemplation of its ancient magnificence ; and in inquiries after the remains of its ancient learning. i found in cairo, a mixture of all nations : some brought thither by the love of knowledge ; some by the hope of gain ; and many, by the desire of living after their own manner, without observation ; and of lying hid in the obscurity of multitudes : for in a city, populous as cairo, it is possible to obtain at the same time, the gratifications of society, and the secrecy of solitude. from cairo i travelled to suëz, and embarked on the red sea ; passing along the coast, till i arrived at the port from which i had departed twenty years before. here i joined myself to a caravan, and re-entered my native country. i now expected the caresses of my kinsmen, and the

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congratulations of my friends ; and was not without hope, that my father, whatever value he had set upon riches, would own with gladness and pride, a son who was able to add to the felicity and honour of the nation ; but i was soon convinced that my thoughts were vain. my father had been dead fourteen years, having divided his wealth among my brothers, who were removed to some other provinces. of my companions, the greater part was in the grave ; of the rest, some could with difficulty remember me, and some considered me as one corrupted by foreign manners. a man used to vicissitudes is not easily dejected. i forgot, after a time, my disappointment, and endeavoured to recommend myself to the nobles of the kingdom : they admitted me to their tables, heard my story, and dismissed me. i opened a school, and was prohibited to teach. i then resolved to sit down in the quiet of domestic life, and addressed a lady that was fond of my conversation, but rejected my suit, because my father was a merchant. wearied at last with solicitation and repulses, i resolved to hide myself for ever from the world ; and depend no longer on the opinion or caprice of others. i waited for the time when the gate of the happy valley should open, that i might bid farewell to hope and fear. the day came ; my perform-

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'once was distinguished with favour, and i reigned myself, with joy, to perpetual confinement.' 'hast thou here found happiness at last?' said rasselas. 'tell me without reserve: art thou content with thy condition? or, dost thou wish to be again wandering and inquiring? all the inhabitants of this valley celebrate their lot, and at the annual visit of the emperor invite others to partake of their felicity.' 'great prince,' said imlac, 'i shall speak the truth. i know not one of all your attendants who does not lament the hour when he entered this retreat. i am less unhappy than the rest, because i have a mind replete with images, which i can vary and combine at pleasure. i can amuse my solitude by the renovation of the knowledge which begins to fade from my memory, and by recollection of the accidents of my past life. yet all this ends in the sorrowful consideration, that my acquirements are now useless; and that none of my pleasures can be again enjoyed. the rest, whose minds have no impression but of the present moment, are either corroded by malignant passions, or sit stupid in the gloom of perpetual vacancy.' 'what passions can infest those,' said the prince, 'who have no rivals? we are in a place where impotence precludes malice, and where all envy is repressed by community of enjoy-

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ments.' 'there may be community,' said imlac, 'of material possessions, but there can never be community of love or of esteem. it must happen, that one will please more than another : he that knows himself despised will always be envious, and still more envious and malevolent, if he is condemned to live in the presence of those who despise him. the invitations, by which they allure others to a state which they feel to be wretched, proceed from the natural malignity of hopeless misery. they are weary of themselves and of each other, and expect to find relief in new companions. they envy the liberty which their folly has forfeited, and would gladly see all mankind imprisoned like themselves. from this crime however, i am wholly free. no man can say, that he is wretched by my persuasion. i look with pity on the crowds who are annually soliciting admission to captivity, and wish that it were lawful for me to warn them of their danger.' 'my dear imlac,' said the prince, 'i will open to thee my whole heart. i have long meditated an escape from the happy valley. i have examined the mountains on every side, but find myself insuperably barred ; teach me the way to break my prison : thou shalt be the companion of my flight, the guide of my rambles, the partner of my fortune, and my sole director in the choice of life.' 'ay, an-

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answered the poet, 'your escape will be difficult : and perhaps you may soon repent your curiosity. the world, which you figure to yourself smooth and quiet as the lake in the valley, you will find a sea, foaming with tempests and boiling with whirlpools : you will be sometimes, overwhelmed by the waves of violence ; and sometimes, dashed against the rocks of treachery ; amidst wrongs and frauds, competitions and anxieties, you will wish a thousand times, for these seats of quiet, and willingly quit hope to be free from fear.' 'do not seek to deter me from my purpose,' said the prince, 'i am impatient to see what thou hast seen, and since thou art thyself weary of the valley, it is evident that thy former state was better than this. whatever be the consequence of my experiment, i am resolved to judge with mine own eyes of the various conditions of men, and then to make deliberately, my choice of life.' 'i am afraid,' said imlac, 'you are hindered by stronger restraints than my persuasions : yet, if your determination is fixed, i do not counsel you to despair. few things are impossible to diligence and skill.' the prince now dismissed his favourite to rest, but the narrative of wonders and novelties filled his mind with perturbation. he revolved all that he had heard, and prepared innumerable questions for the morning. much

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of his uneasiness was now removed. he had a friend to whom he could impart his thoughts, and whose experience could assist him in his designs. his heart was no longer condemned to swell with silent vexation. he thought that even the happy valley might be endured with such a companion : and that if they could range the world together, he should have nothing further to desire. in a few days the water was discharged, and the ground dried. the prince and imlac then walked out together, to converse without the notice of the rest. the prince, whose thoughts were always on the wing, as he passed by the gate, said with a countenance of sorrow, ' why art thou so strong, and why is man so weak ? ' ' man is not weak,' answered his companion, ' knowledge is more than equivalent to force. the master of mechanicks laughs at strength. i can burst the gate ; but cannot do it secretly. some other expedient must be tried.' as they were walking on the side of the mountain, they observed that the conies, which the rain had driven from their burrows, had taken shelter among the bushes, and formed holes behind them, tending upwards in an oblique line. ' it has been the opinion of antiquity,' said imlac, ' that human reason borrowed many arts from the instinct of animals : let us therefore not think ourselves degraded

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'It has been the opinion of antiquity,' said Imlac, 'that human reason borrowed many arts from the instinct of animals: let us therefore not think ourselves degraded

by learning from the coney. we may escape by piercing the mountain in the same direction. we will begin where the summit hangs over the middle part, and labour upward till we shall issue up beyond the prominence.' the eyes of the prince, when he heard this proposal, sparkled with joy. the execution was easy, and the success certain. no time was now lost: they hastened early in the morning to choose a place proper for their mine. they clambered with great fatigue among crags and brambles, and returned without having discovered any part that favoured their design: the second, and the third day were spent in the same manner, and with the same frustration. but on the fourth, they found a small cavern, concealed by a thicket, where they resolved to make their experiment. im-lac procured instruments proper to hew stone and remove earth, and they fell to their work on the next day, with more eagerness than vigour. they were presently exhausted by their efforts, and sat down to pant upon the grass. the prince, for a moment, appeared to be discouraged. 'sir,' said his companion, 'practice will enable us to continue our labour for a longer time: mark, however, how far we have advanced, and you will find, that our toil will some time have an end. great works are performed, not by

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strength, but perseverance. yonder palace was raised by single stones ; yet you see its height and spaciousness. he that shall walk with vigour three hours a day, will pass in seven years a space equal to the circumference of the globe. they returned to their work day after day, and in a short time found a fissure in the rock, which enabled them to pass far with very little obstruction. this, rasselas considered as a good omen. ‘ do not disturb your mind,’ said imlac, ‘ with other hopes or fears than reason may suggest ; if you are pleased with prognosticks of good, you will be terrified likewise with tokens of evil ; and your whole life will be a prey to superstition. whatever facilitates our work is more than an omen ; it is a cause of success. this is one of those pleasing surprises which often happen to active resolution. many things difficult to design, prove easy to performance.’ they had now wrought their way to the middle, and solaced their toil with the approach of liberty ; when the prince coming down to refresh himself with air, found his sister nekayah standing before the mouth of the cavity. he started and stood confused, afraid to tell his design, and yet hopeless to conceal it. a few moments determined him to repose on her fidelity ; and secure her secrecy, by a declaration without reserve. ‘ do not imagine,’

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said the princess, 'that I came hither as a spy. I had long observed from my window, that you and imlac directed your walk every day towards the same point, but I did not suppose you had any better reason for the preference, than a cooler shade, or more fragrant bank; nor followed you with any other design, than to partake of your conversation. since, then, not suspicion, but fondness has detected you, let me not lose the advantage of my discovery. I am equally weary of confinement with yourself, and not less desirous of knowing what is done or suffered in the world. permit me to fly with you from this tasteless tranquillity, which will yet grow more loathsome when you have left me. you may deny me to accompany you, but cannot hinder me from following.' the prince, who loved Nekayah above his other sisters, had no inclination to refuse her request; and grieved, that he had lost an opportunity of showing his confidence by a voluntary communication. it was therefore agreed, that she should leave the valley with them; and that in the mean time she should watch, lest any other straggler should by chance, or curiosity, follow them to the mountain. at length their labour was at an end: they saw light beyond the prominence; and issuing to the top of the mountain, beheld the Nile, yet a narrow current, wandering beneath them. the

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delighted with a wider horizon, that he could not soon be persuaded to return into the valley. he informed his sister, that the way was open, and that nothing now remained, but to prepare for their departure.

the prince and princess had jewels sufficient to make them rich whenever they came into a place of commerce, which, by imlac's direction, they hid in their clothes, and, on the night of the next full moon, all left the valley. the princess was followed only by a single favourite, who did not know whither she was going. they clambered through the cavity, and began to go down on the other side. the princess and her maid turned their eyes towards every part, and seeing nothing to bound their prospect, considered themselves as in danger of being lost in a dreary vacuity. they stopped and trembled. ' I am almost afraid,' said the princess, ' to begin a journey of which I cannot perceive an end, and to venture into this immense plain, where I may be approached on every side by men whom I never saw.'

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The princess was followed only by a single favourite, who did not know whither she was going. They clambered through the cavity, and began to go down on the other side. The princess and her maid turned their eyes towards every part, and seeing nothing to bound their prospect, considered themselves as in danger of being lost in a dreary vacuity. They stopped and trembled. 'I am almost afraid,' said the princess, 'to begin a journey of which I cannot perceive an end, and to venture into this immense plain, where I may be approached on every side by men whom I never

the prince felt nearly the same emotions, though he thought it more manly to conceal them. imlac smiled at their terrors, and encouraged them to proceed ; but the princess continued irresolute till she had been imperceptibly drawn forward too far to return. in the morning they found some shepherds in the field, who set milk and fruits before them. the princess wondered that she did not see a palace ready for her reception, and a table spread with delicacies ; but, being faint and hungry, she drank the milk and eat the fruits, and thought them of a higher flavour than the products of the valley. they travelled forward by easy journies, being all unaccustomed to toil or difficulty, and knowing, that though they might be missed, they could not be pursued. in a few days they came into a more populous region, where imlac was diverted with the admiration which his companions expressed at the diversity of manners, stations, and employments. their dress was such as might not bring upon them the suspicion of having any thing to conceal, yet the prince, wherever he came, expected to be obeyed ; and the princess was frightened, because those that came into her presence did not prostrate themselves before her. imlac was forced to observe them with great vigilance, lest they should betray their rank by their unusual be-

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by degrees, the royal wanderers were taught to understand that they had for a time laid aside their dignity, and were to expect only such regard as liberality and courtesy could procure : and imlac having, by many admonitions, prepared them to endure the tumults of a port, and the ruggedness of the commercial race, brought them down to the sea coast.

the prince and his sister, to whom every thing was new, were gratified equally at all places, and therefore remained for some months at the port without any inclination to pass further. imlac was content with their stay, because he did not think it safe to expose them, unpractised in the world, to the hazards of a foreign country. at last, he began to fear lest they should be discovered, and proposed to fix a day for their departure. they had no pretensions to judge for themselves, and referred the whole scheme to his direction. he therefore took passage in a ship for suéz ; and when the time came, with great difficulty prevailed on the princess to enter the vessel. they had a quick and prosperous voyage, and from suéz travelled by land to Cairo.

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where travellers and merchants assemble from all the corners of the earth. you will here find men of every character, and every occupation. commerce is here honourable, I will act as a merchant, and you shall live as strangers, who have no other end of travel than curiosity; it will soon be observed that we are rich; our reputation will procure us access to all whom we shall desire to know; you will see all the conditions of humanity, and enable yourself at leisure to make your choice of life.

they now entered the town, stunned by the noise, and offended by the crowds. instruction had not yet so prevailed over habit, but that they wondered to see themselves pass undistinguished along the street, and met by the lowest of the people without reverence or notice. the princess could not at first bear the thought of being levelled with the vulgar, and for some days, continued in her chamber, where she was served by her favourite Pekuah as in the palace of the valley.

imlac, who understood traffick, sold part of the jewels the next day, and hired a house, which he adorned with such magnificence, that he was immediately considered as a merchant of great wealth. his politeness attracted many acquaintance, and his generosity made him courted by many dependants. his table was crowded by men of every nation, who all ad-

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world overflowed with universal plenty, and that nothing was withheld either from want or merit; that every hand showered liberality, and every heart melted with benevolence; 'and who then,' says he, 'will be suffered to be wretched?' imlac permitted the pleasing delusion, and was unwilling to crush the hope of experience; till one day, having sat awhile silent, 'I know not,' said the prince, 'what can be the reason that I am more unhappy than any of our friends. I see them perpetually and unalterably cheerful, but feel my own mind restless and uneasy. I am unsatisfied with those pleasures which I seem most to court; I live in the crowds of jollity, not so much to enjoy company as to shun myself, and am only loud and merry to conceal my sadness.' 'every man,' said imlac, 'may by examining his own mind, guess what passes in the minds of others: when you feel that your own gaiety is counterfeit, it may justly lead you to suspect that of your companions not to be sincere. envy is commonly reciprocal. we are long before we are convinced, that happiness is never to be found, and each believes it possessed by others, to keep alive the hope of obtaining it for himself. in the assembly where you passed the last night, there appeared such sprightliness of air and volatility of fancy, as might have suited beings of an higher

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order, formed to inhabit serene regions, inaccessible to care or sorrow : yet, believe me, prince, there was not one who did not dread the moment when solitude should deliver him to the tyranny of reflection.' 'this,'

said the prince, 'may be true of others, since it is true of me ; yet, whatever be the general infelicity of man, one condition is more happy than another, and wisdom surely directs us to take the least evil in the choice of life.' 'the causes of good and evil,' answered

him, 'are so various and uncertain, so often entangled with each other, so diversified by various relations, and so much subject to accidents which cannot be foreseen, that he who would fix his condition upon incontestable reasons of preference, must live and die inquiring and deliberating.' 'but surely,' said Rasselas, 'the

wise men to whom we listen with reverence and wonder, chose that mode of life for themselves which they thought most likely to make them happy.' 'very

few,' said the poet, 'live by choice. every man is placed in his present condition by causes which acted without his foresight, and with which he did not always willingly co-operate ; and therefore, you will rarely meet one who does not think the lot of his neighbour better than his own.' 'I am pleased to think,' said

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vantage over others, by enabling me to determine for myself. I have here the world before me ; I will review it at leisure : surely happiness is somewhere to be found.'

Rasselas rose next day and resolved to begin his experiments upon life. 'youth,' cried he, 'is the time of gladness : I will join myself to the young men, whose only business is to gratify their desires, and whose time is all spent in a succession of enjoyments.' to such societies he was readily admitted ; but a few days brought him back weary and disgusted. their mirth was without images ; their laughter without motive : their pleasures were gross and sensual, in which the mind had no part ; their conduct was at once wild and mean ; they laughed at order and at law ; but the frown of power dejected, and the eye of wisdom abashed them. the prince soon concluded, that he should never be happy in a course of life of which he was ashamed. he thought it unsuitable to a reasonable being to act without a plan, and to be sad or cheerful only by chance. 'happiness,' said he, 'must be something solid and permanent, without fear and without uncertainty.' but his young companions had gained so much of his regard by their frankness and courtesy, that he could not leave them without warning and remonstrance. 'my friends,' said he, 'I have seriously con-

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considered our manners and our prospects, and find that we have mistaken our own interest. the first years of man must make provision for the last. he that never thinks, never can be wise. perpetual levity must end in ignorance : and intemperance, though it may fire the spirits for an hour, will make life short or miserable. let us consider that youth is of no long duration, and that in maturer age, when the enchantments of fancy shall cease, and phantoms of delight dance no more about us, we shall have no comforts but the esteem of wise men, and the means of doing good. . let us, therefore, stop ; while to stop is in our power : let us live as men who are some time to grow old, and to whom it will be the most dreadful of all evils to count their past years by follies, and to be reminded of their former luxuriance of health only by the maladies which riot has produced. they stared awhile in silence, one upon another : and at last drove him away by a general chorus of continued laughter. the consciousness that his sentiments were just, and his intentions kind, was scarcely sufficient to support him against the horror of derision. but he recovered his tranquillity, and pursued his search. as he was one day walking in the street, he saw a spacious building, which all were, by the open doors, invited to enter : he

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followed the stream of people, and found it a hall or school of declamation, in which professors read lectures to their auditory. he fixed his eye upon a sage raised above the rest, who discoursed with great energy on the government of the passions. his look was venerable; his action graceful, his pronunciation clear, and his diction elegant. he showed, with great strength of sentiment, and variety of illustration, that human nature is degraded and debased, when the lower faculties predominate over the higher : that when fancy, the parent of passion, usurps the dominion of the mind, nothing ensues but the natural effect of unlawful government ; perturbation, and confusion : that she betrays the fortresses of the intellect to rebels, and excites her children to sedition against reason, their lawful sovereign. he compared reason to the sun, of which the light is constant, uniform, and lasting ; and fancy to a meteor, of bright, but transitory lustre, irregular in its motion and delusive in its direction. he then communicated the various precepts given from time to time for the conquest of passion, and displayed the happiness of those who had obtained the important victory, after which man is no longer the slave of fear, nor the fool of hope ; is no more emaciated by envy, inflamed by anger, emasculated by tenderness, or depressed by grief ; but walks on calmly

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 ' I have found,' said the prince, at his return to imlac,
 ' a man who can teach all that is necessary to be known ;
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angels, but they live like men.' Rasselas, who could not conceive how any man could reason so forcibly without feeling the cogency of his own arguments, paid his visit in a few days, and was denied admission. he had now learned the power of money, and made his way by a piece of gold, to the inner apartment, where he found the philosopher in a room half darkened, with his eyes misty, and his face pale. 'sir,' said he, 'you are come at a time when all human friendship is useless: what I suffer cannot be remedied: what I have lost cannot be supplied. my daughter; my only daughter; from whose tenderness I expected all the comforts of my age, died last night of a fever. my views, my purposes, my hopes are at an end. I am now a lonely being, disunited from society. 'sir,' said the prince, 'mortality is an event by which a wise man can never be surprised: we know that death is always near, and it should therefore always be expected.' 'young man,' answered the philosopher, 'you speak like one who has never felt the pangs of separation.' 'have you then forgot the precepts,' said Rasselas, 'which you so powerfully enforced? has wisdom no strength to arm the heart against calamity? consider, that external things are naturally variable, but truth and reason are always the same.' 'what comfort,' said the mourner,

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The proposal pleased them; and they induced the shepherds by small presents and familiar questions, to tell their opinion of

their own state : they were so rude and ignorant, so little able to compare the good with the evil of their occupation, and so indistinct in their narratives and descriptions, that very little could be learned from them. but it was evident, that their hearts were cankered with discontent ; that they considered themselves as condemned to labour for the luxury of the rich ; and looked up with stupid malvolence toward those that were placed above them.

the princess pronounced with vehemence, that she would never suffer these envious savages to be her companions, and that she should not soon be desirous of seeing any more specimens of rustic happiness ; but could not believe that all the accounts of primeval pleasures were fabulous, and was yet in doubt, whether life had any thing that could be justly preferred to the placid gratifications of fields and woods. she hoped that the time would come, when, with a few virtuous and elegant companions, she should gather flowers planted by her own hand ; fondle the lambs of her own ewe ; and listen, without care, among brooks and breezes, to one of her maidens reading in the shade. on the next day they continued their journey, till the heat compelled them to look round for shelter. at a small distance they saw a thick wood, which they no sooner entered, than they perceived that they were ap-

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 diligently cut away to open walks where the shades
 were darkest ; the boughs of opposite trees were arti^ficially
 interwoven ; seats of flowery turf were raised in
 vacant spaces, and a rivulet that wantoned along the
 side of a winding path, had its banks sometimes opened
 into small basons, and its stream sometimes obstructed
 by little mounds of stone heaped together to increase its
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proaching the habitations of men. The shrubs were diligently cut away to open walks where the shades were darkest ; the boughs of opposite trees were artificially interwoven ; seats of flowery turf were raised in vacant spaces, and a rivulet that wantoned along the side of a winding path, had its banks sometimes opened into small basons, and its stream sometimes obstructed by little mounds of stone heaped together to increase its murmurs. They passed slowly through the wood, delighted with such unexpected accommodations, and entertained each other with conjecturing what, or who he could be, that in those rude and unfrequented regions had leisure and art for such harmless luxury. As they advanced they heard the sound of musick, and saw youths and virgins dancing in the grove ; and going still further, beheld a stately palace, built upon a hill surrounded with woods. The laws of eastern hospitality allowed them to enter ; and the master welcomed them like a man liberal and wealthy. He was skilful enough in appearances soon to discern that they were no common guests ; and spread his table with magnificence. The eloquence of Jmlac caught his attention, and the lofty courtesies of the princess excited his respect. When they offered to depart he entreated their stay, and was the next day still more unwilling to dismiss them than

before. they were easily persuaded to stop, and civility grew up in time to freedom and confidence. the prince now saw all the domesticks cheerful, and all the face of nature smiling round the place, and could not forbear to hope that he should find here what he was seeking : but when he was congratulating the master upon his possessions, he answered with a sigh, ' my condition has indeed the appearance of happiness, but appearances are delusive. my prosperity puts my life in danger ; the bassa of ægypt is my enemy, incensed only by my wealth and popularity. I have been hitherto protected against him by the princes of the country ; but as the favour of the great is uncertain, I know not how soon my defenders may be persuaded to share the plunder with the bassa. I have sent my treasures into a distant country, and upon the first alarm, am prepared to follow them. — then will my enemies riot in my mansion, and enjoy the gardens which I have planted.' they all joined in lamenting his danger, and deprecating his exile ; and the princess was so much disturbed with the tumult of grief and indignation, that she retired to her apartment. they continued with their kind invites a few days longer, and then went forward to find the hermit. they came on the third day, by the direction of the peasants, to the hermit's cell : it was a

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cavern in the side of a mountain overshadowed with palm trees, at such a distance from the cataract, that nothing more was heard than a gentle, uniform murmur, such as composed the mind to pensive meditation, especially when it was assisted by the wind whistling among the branches. the first rude essay of nature had been so much improved by human labour, that the cave contained several apartments appropriated to different uses, and often afforded lodging to travellers, whom darkness or tempests happened to overtake. the hermit sat on a bench at the door, to enjoy the coolness of the evening. on one side lay a book with pens and papers; on the other, mechanical instruments of various kinds. as they approached him unregarded, the prince observed, that he had not the countenance of a man that had found, or could teach the way to happiness. they saluted him with great respect, which he repaid like a man not unaccustomed to the forms of courts. 'my children,' said he, 'if you have lost your way, you shall be willingly supplied with such conveniences for the night as this cavern will afford. I have all that nature requires, and you will not expect delicacies in a hermit's cell.' they thanked him; and entering, were pleased with the neatness and regularity of the place. the hermit set flesh and wine before

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them, though he fed only upon fruits and water. his discourse was cheerful without levity, and pious without enthusiasm. he soon gained the esteem of his guests, and the princess repented of her hasty censure. at last, Imlac began thus : I do not now wonder that your reputation is so far extended ; we have heard at Cairo of your wisdom, and came hither to implore your direction for this young man and maiden in the choice of life. ‘to him that lives well,’ answered the hermit, ‘every form of life is good : nor can I give any other rule for choice, than to remove from all apparent evil.’ ‘he will remove most certainly from evil,’ said the prince, ‘who shall devote himself to that solitude which you have recommended by your example.’ ‘I have indeed lived fifteen years in solitude,’ said the hermit, ‘but have no desire that my example should gain any imitators. in my youth I professed arms, and was raised by degrees to the highest military rank. I have traversed wide countries at the head of my troops, and seen many battles and sieges. at last, being disgusted by the preferments of a younger officer, and feeling that my vigour was beginning to decay, I resolved to close my life in peace, having found the world full of snares, discord, and misery. I had once escaped from the pursuit of the enemy by the shelter of

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this cavern, and therefore chose it for my final residence. I employed artificers to form it into chambers, and stored it with all that I was likely to want. For some time after my retreat, I rejoiced like a tempest beaten sailor at his entrance into the harbour, being delighted with the sudden change of the noise and hurry of war to stillness and repose. When the pleasure of novelty went away, I employed my hours in examining the plants which grow in the valley, and the minerals which I collected from the rocks. but that inquiry is now grown tasteless and irksome. I have been for some time unsettled, and distracted: my mind is disturbed with a thousand perplexities of doubt, and vanities of imagination, which hourly prevail upon me, because I have no opportunities of relaxation or diversion. I am sometimes ashamed, to think that I could not secure myself from vice, but by retiring from the exercise of virtue, and begin to suspect that I was rather impelled by resentment than led by devotion into solitude. my fancy riots in scenes of folly, and I lament that I have lost so much, and have gained so little. in solitude, if I escape the example of bad men, I want likewise the counsel and conversation of the good. I have been long comparing the evils with the advantages of society, and resolve to return into the world to-morrow. the life

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Rasselas went often to an assembly of learned men, who met at stated times to unbend their minds, and compare their opinions. their manners were somewhat coarse, but their conversation was instructive; and their disputations acute, though sometimes too violent, and often continued till neither contrivest remembered upon what question they began. some faults were almost general among them: every one was desirous to dictate to the rest, and every one was pleased to hear the genius or knowledge of another depreciated.

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ed of the right of society to the labour of individuals, and considered retirement as a desertion of duty. Others readily allowed, that there was a time when the claims of the publick were satisfied, and when a man might properly sequester himself, to review his life, and purify his heart. One who appeared more affected with the narrative than the rest, thought it likely, that the hermit would, in a few years, go back to his retreat, and, perhaps, if shame did not restrain, or death intercept him, return once more from his retreat into the world: 'for the hope of happiness,' said he, 'is so strongly impressed, that the longest experience is not able to efface it. of the present state, whatever it be, we feel and are forced to confess the misery; yet, when the same state is again at a distance, imagination paints it as desirable. but the time will surely come, when desire will be no longer our torment, and no man shall be wretched but by his own fault.' 'this,' said a philosopher, who had heard him with tokens of great impatience, 'is the present condition of a wise man. the time is already come, when none are wretched but by their own fault. nothing is more idle than to inquire after happiness, which nature has kindly placed within our reach. the way to be happy is to live according to nature; in obedience to that universal and

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unalterable law with which every heart is originally impressed ; which is not written on it by precept, but engraven by destiny : not instilled by education, but infused at our nativity. he that lives according to nature will suffer nothing from the delusions of hope, or importunities of desire : he will receive and reject with equability of temper, and act or suffer as the reason of things shall alternately prescribe. other men may amuse themselves with subtle definitions, or intricate ratiocinations. let them learn to be wise by easier means : let them observe the hind of the forest, and the linnet of the grove : let them consider the life of animals whose motions are regulated by instinct ; they obey their guide, and are happy. let us therefore at length, cease to dispute, and learn to live ; throw away the incumbrance of precepts, which they who utter them with so much pride and pomp do not understand : and carry with us this simple and intelligible maxim, that deviation from nature is deviation from happiness. When he had spoken, he looked round him with a placid air, and enjoyed the consciousness of his own beneficence. ‘sir,’ said the prince, with great modesty, ‘as I, like all the rest of mankind, am desirous of felicity, my closest attention has been fixed upon your discourse : I doubt not the truth of a position which a man so

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learned has so confidently advanced. let me only know, what it is to live according to nature. 'when I find young men so humble and so docile,' said the philosopher, 'I can deny them no information which my studies have enabled me to afford. to live according to nature, is to act always with due regard to the fitness arising from the relations and qualities of causes and effects : to concur with the great and unchangeable scheme of universal felicity ; to co-operate with the general disposition and tendency of the present system of things.' the prince soon found that this was one of the sages whom he should understand less as he heard him longer. he therefore bowed and was silent ; and the philosopher supposing him satisfied, and the rest vanquished, rose up and departed, with the air of a man that had co-operated with the present system. Ras-selas returned home full of reflections, doubtful how to direct his future steps. of the way to happiness he found the learned and simple equally ignorant, but as he was yet young, he flattered himself that he had yet time remaining for more experiments and further inquiries. he communicated to Imlac his observations and his doubts, but was answered by him with new doubts and remarks, that gave him no comfort. he therefore discoursed more frequently and freely with his sister, who

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had yet the same hope with himself, and always assisted him to give some reason, why, though he had been hitherto frustrated, he might succeed at last. 'we have hitherto,' said she, 'known but little of the world: we have never yet been either great or mean. in our own country, though we had royalty we had no power; and in this, we have not yet seen the private recesses of domestick peace. Imlac favours not our search; lest we should in time find him mistaken. we will divide the task between us: you shall try what is to be found in the splendour of courts, and I will range the shades of humbler life. perhaps, command and authority may be the supreme blessings, as they afford most opportunities of doing good: or, perhaps, what this world can give may be found in the modest habitations of middle fortune, too low for great designs, and too high for penury and distress.' Rasselas applauded the design; and appeared next day with a splendid retinue at the court of the bassâ. he was soon distinguished for his magnificence, and admitted, as a prince whose curiosity had brought him from distant countries, to an intimacy with the great officers, and frequent conversation with the bassâ himself. he was at first inclined to believe, that the man must be pleased with his own condition, whom all approached with reverence, and heard

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with obedience ; and who had the power to extend his edicts to a whole kingdom. 'there can be no pleasure,' said he, 'equal to that of seeing at once the joy of thousands all made happy by wise administration. yet, since by the law of subordination, this sublime delight can be in one nation but the lot of one, it is surely reasonable to think, that there is some satisfaction more popular and accessible ; and that millions can hardly be subjected to the will of a single man, only to fill his particular breast with incommunicable content.'

these thoughts were often in his mind, and he found no solution of the difficulty. but as presents and civilities gained him more familiarity, he found that almost every man who stood high in employment hated all the rest, and was hated by them ; and that their lives were a continual succession of plots and detections, stratagems and escapes, faction and treachery. many of those who surrounded the *bas*, were sent only to watch and report his conduct : every tongue was muttering censure, and every eye was searching for a fault.

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at degree only dangerous, and the supreme, safe and glorious? is the sultan the only happy man in his dominions, or, is the sultan himself subject to the torments of suspicion, and the dread of enemies? in a short time the second bassâ was deposed: the sultan that had advanced him was murdered by the Janisaries, and his successor had other views and different favourites. the princess, in the mean time, insinuated herself into many families; for there are few doors, through which liberality joined with good humour cannot find its way. the daughters of many houses were airy and cheerful; but Nekayah had been too long accustomed to the conversation of Imlac and her brother, to be much pleased with childish levity, and prattle which had no meaning. she found their thoughts narrow, their wishes low, and their merriment often artificial. their pleasures, poor as they were, could not be preserved pure, but were embittered by petty competitions and worthless emulation. they were always jealous of the beauty of each other; of a quality to which solicitude can add nothing, and from which detraction can take nothing away. many were in love with triflers like themselves, and many fancied that they were in love, when in truth they were only idle. their affection was not fixed on sense or virtue, and therefore

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with these girls she played as with inoffensive animals, and found them proud of her countenance and weary of her company. but her purpose was to examine more deeply, and her affability easily persuaded the hearts that were swelling with sorrow to discharge their secrets in her ear: and those whom hope flattered, or prosperity delighted, often courted her to partake their pleasures.

the princess and her brother commonly met in the evening, in a private summer house on the bank of the Nile, and related to each other the occurrences of the day. as they were sitting together, the princess cast her eyes upon the river that flowed before her.

'answer,' said she, 'great father of waters, thou that rollest thy floods through eighty nations, to the invocations of the daughter of thy native king: tell me, if thou waterest, through all thy course, a single habitation from which thou dost not hear the murmurs of complaint?'

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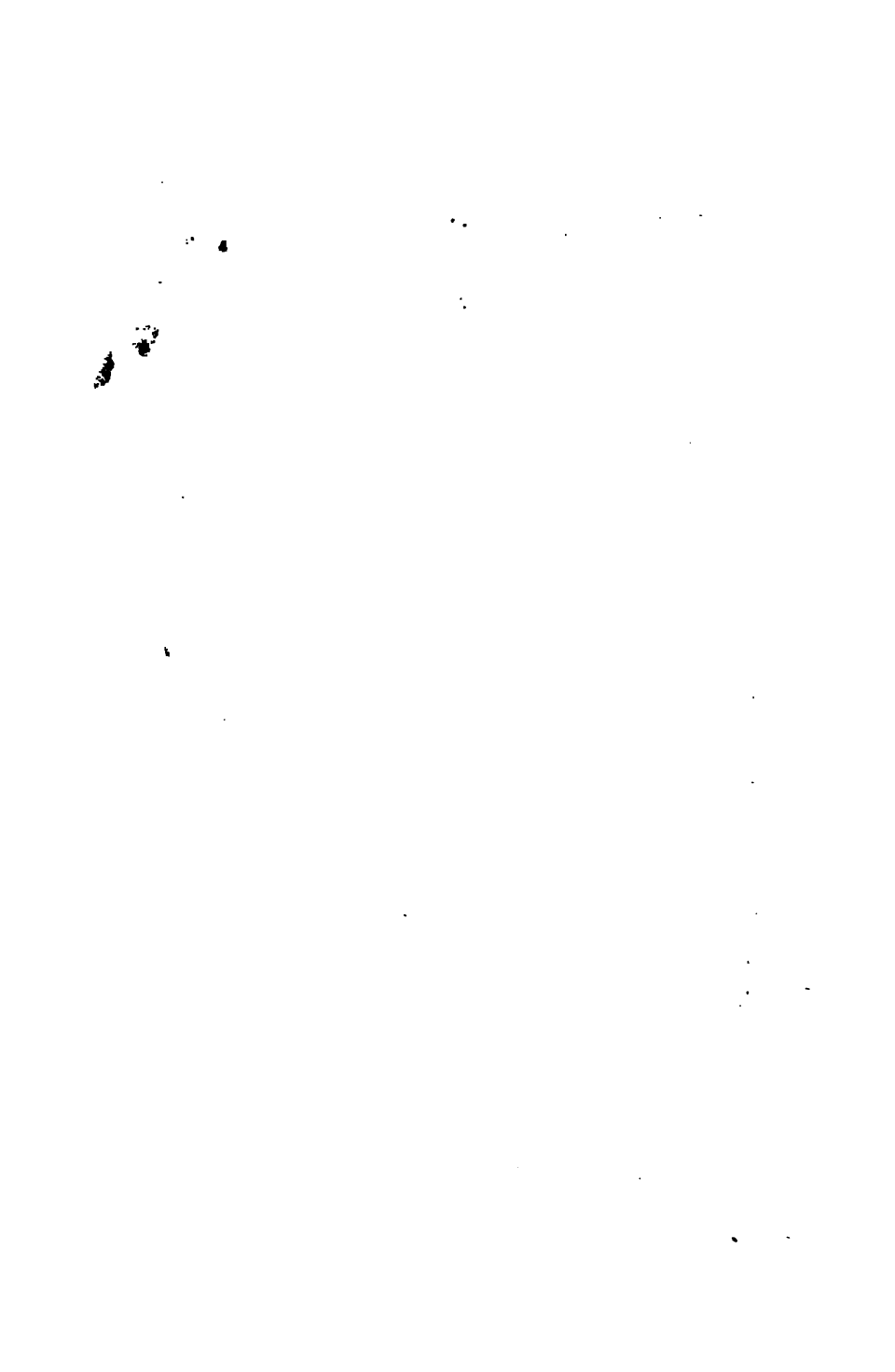
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of our provinces,' said the princess, 'enabled myself to enter familiarly into many families, where there was the fairest show of prosperity and peace, and know not one house that is not haunted by some fury that destroys their quiet. I did not seek ease among the poor, because I concluded that there it could not be found. But I saw many poor, whom I had supposed to live in affluence. poverty has, in large cities, very different appearances: it is often concealed in splendour, and often in extravagance. it is the care of a very great part of mankind to conceal their indigence from the rest: they support themselves by temporary expedients, and every day is lost in contriving for the morrow. this however, was an evil which though frequent, I saw with less pain, because I could relieve it. yet some have refused my bounties, more offended with my quickness to detect their wants, than pleased with my readiness to succour them: and others, whose exigencies compelled them to admit my kindness have never been able to forgive their benefactress. many, however, have been sincerely grateful without the ostentation of gratitude, or the hope of other favours.'

of our provinces,' said the princess, 'enabled myself to enter familiarly into many families, where there was the fairest show of prosperity and peace, and know not one house that is not haunted by some fury that destroys their quiet. I did not seek ease among the poor, because I concluded that there it could not be found. But I saw many poor, whom I had supposed to live in affluence. Poverty has, in large cities, very different appearances : it is often concealed in splendour, and often in extravagance. It is the care of a very great part of mankind to conceal their indigence from the rest : they support themselves by temporary expedients, and every day is lost in contriving for the morrow. This however, was an evil which though frequent, I saw with less pain, because I could relieve it. Yet some have refused my bounties, more offended with my quickness to detect their wants, than pleased with my readiness to succour them : and others, whose exigencies compelled them to admit my kindness have never been able to forgive their benefactress. Many, however, have been sincerely grateful without the ostentation of gratitude, or the hope of other favours.'



NOTE.

IN the preceding pages of *RASSELAS*, comprising the whole of the first volume of the London edition, every letter has been repeatedly noted with its appropriate marks, and the accented syllables distinguished by *Italic* vowels. The vowel marks becoming, by repetition, less and less necessary, have been gradually omitted in words of the most frequent recurrence, and might now perhaps be altogether laid aside.

But as some words will be found in the second volume which have not occurred in the first, an occasional use of the vowel marks may still be requisite. These words, however, cannot be so numerous as to require being repeated on the opposite page. In the second volume, therefore, which now commences, the repetition of the same matter on the opposite page will be discontinued, and the accented vowel will be distinguished by the mark which indicates its sound. The vowel mark will thus answer the double purpose of ascertaining the sound, and the position of the accented vowel; and although the unaccented vowels will remain unmarked, the student may be presumed capable of giving them their true sounds, if, in perusing the first volume, he has attended to the general current of the language.

The vowel marks will also be occasionally applied to such monosyllables as might otherwise be mistaken.

As we proceed, the silent consonants will be seldomer noticed, and the number of vowel marks in a page gradually reduced, till, being no longer necessary, they may be wholly omitted.

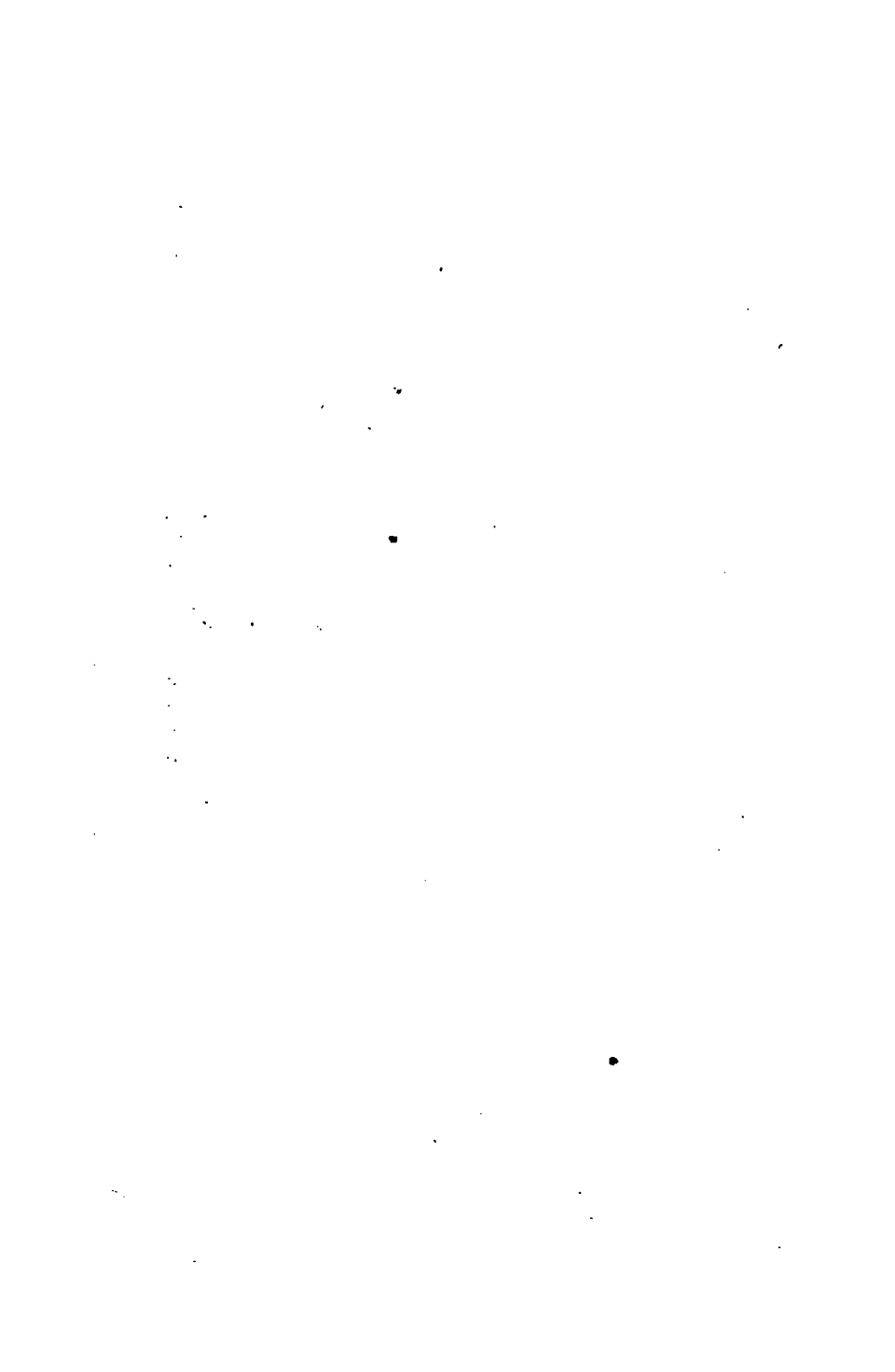
If the reader should be at a loss for the pronunciation of a word not marked, the difficulty may probably be removed by turning over a few pages of the preceding volume of *Rasselas*, or by referring to the Vocabularies.

The Italic character having been adopted for the purpose of distinction, it may not be amiss to state the principles upon which it has been applied in this scheme of Notation. At first sight it would appear rational, that silent vowels, as well as consonants, should be in the same character. But as the accented vowels on the right hand page are distinguished by Italics, it was thought likely to perplex the learner, if he found that on one page the Italic vowel had a distinct sound, and on the other, no sound at all. At least, the mental transition from sound to silence would not have been easy, and would have required constant vigilance. The conclusion, therefore, which appeared to be most natural was, that absence of sound should be distinguished by absence of the mark indicating sound. The Italic vowel was thus left free to be used as it has been used. In like manner, the accent on the right hand page could not consistently be noted by an Italic consonant, because the same character was employed on the left hand to distinguish the consonants which have no sound. A new character, or rather a modification of the usual characters might indeed be imagined, by means of which, the accent, sound, and silent letters, might all be printed on the same page, without risk of being confounded with each other. If this had been attempted in the present work, it must have considerably retarded the publication, and enhanced the cost.

A judicious friend has suggested, that some of the vowel marks indicating the same sound are liable to misconception, arising from a slight difference of appearance ; that the least variation to the eye will be considered as indicative of a variation of sound, or quantity.

To obviate, or to remove all ambiguity of this kind, the reader is requested to observe that each vowel mark is made of two sizes; the smaller size for single vowels, and the larger for double vowels. The words felicity, ability, abilities, furnish the most striking example of this variety of appearance, where the oblique dots over e, i, y, and ie, though somewhat different in size, and degree of inclination, are identically the same character, and uniformly mean the same short sound, of which ē is the long one. Thus, the marks - and - signify exactly the same long sound in māne, and māīn; the short sound of which is found in mén and méant.

Difference of quantity, and difference of sound are therefore not noted by difference in the size or inclination of the same character, but by a distinct, and essential change of figure or position, as described in the exposition of vowel sounds (page xviii) where it appears that the term *oblique* is used positively, without reference to any degree of inclination.



RASSELAS,
PRINCE OF ABYSSINIA.

VOL. II.



RASSELAS.

NERAYAH perceiving her brother's attention fixed, proceeded in her narrative.

'In families where there is or is not poverty, there is commonly discord. If a kingdom be, as Imlac tells us, a great family, a family is likewise a little kingdom, torn with factions, and exposed to revolutions. An unpractised observer expects the love of parents and children to be constant and equal; but this kindness seldom continues beyond the years of infancy: in a short time the children become rivals to their parents: benefits are allayed by reproaches; and gratitude debased by envy.

'Parents and children seldom act in concert; each child endeavours to appropriate the esteem or fondness of the parents, and the parents with still less temptation, betray each other to their children: thus, some place their confidence in the father, and some in the mother, and by degrees, the house is filled with artifices and feuds.

'the opinions of children and parents, of the young and the old, are naturally opposite, by the contrary effects of hope and dependence, of expectation and ex-

perience, without crime or folly on either side. the colours of life in youth and age appear different, as the face of nature in spring and winter ; and how can children credit the assertions of parents which their own eyes show them to be false ?

‘ Few parents act in such a manner as much to enforce their maxims by the credit of their lives. the old man trusts wholly to slow contrivance, and gradual progression : the youth expects to force his way by genius, vigour, and precipitance : the old man pays regard to robes, and the youth reverences virtue : the old man deifies prudence ; the youth commits himself to magnanimity and chance. the young man who intends no ill, believes that none is intended, and therefore acts with openness and candour ; but his father having suffered the injuries of fraud, is impelled to suspect, and too often allured to practise it. Age looks with anger on the temerity of youth, and youth with contempt on the scrupulosity of age. thus, parents and children, for the greatest part, live on to love less and less ; and of those whom nature has thus closely united are the torments of each other, where shall we look for tenderness and consolation ?’

‘ surely,’ said the prince, ‘ you must have been unfortunate in your choice of acquaintance. I am unwilling

to believe that the most tender of all relations is thus impeded in its effects by natural necessity.'

'Domestick discord,' answered she, 'is not inevitably and fatally necessary; but yet it is not easily avoided. We seldom see that a whole family is virtuous. The good and the evil cannot well agree, and the evil can yet less agree with one another. Even the virtuous fall sometimes to variance, when their virtues are of different kinds and tending to extremes. In general, those parents have most reverence who most deserve it; for he who lives well cannot be despised.'

'Many other evils infect private life: some are the slaves of servants whom they have trusted with their affairs; some are kept in continual anxiety by the caprice of rich relations, whom they cannot please and dare not offend; some husbands are imperious, and some wives perverse: and as it is always more easy to do evil than good, though the wisdom or virtue of one can very rarely make many happy, the folly or vice of one may often make many miserable.'

'If such be the general effect of marriage,' said the prince, 'I shall for the future think it dangerous to connect my interest with that of another, lest I should be unhappy by my partner's fault.'

... 'I have met,' said the prince, 'with many who live

single for that reason ; but I never found that their prudence ought to raise envy. they dream away their time without friendship ; without fondness ; and are driven to rid themselves of the day, for which they have no use, by childish amusements or vicious delights. they act as beings under the constant sense of some known inferiority, that fills their minds with rancour, and their tongues with censure. they are peevish at home, and malevolent abroad ; and as the outlaws of human nature, make it their business and their pleasure to disturb that society which debars them from its privileges. To live without feeling or exciting sympathy, to be fortunate without adding to the felicity of others, or afflicted without tasting the balm of pity, is a state more gloomy than solitude : it is not retreat, but exclusion from mankind : marriage has many pains, but celibacy has no pleasures.'

'What then is to be done?' said Rasselas, 'the more we inquire, the less we can resolve. surely he is most likely to please himself that has no other inclination to regard.'

the conversation had a short pause.

the prince having considered his sister's observations, told her, that she had surveyed life with prejudice, and

supposed misery where she did not find it. 'Your narrative,' says he, 'throws yet a darker gloom upon the prospects of futurity : the predictions of Imlac were but faint sketches of the evils painted by Nekayah. I have been lately convinced, that quiet is not the daughter of grandeur or of power : that her presence is not to be bought by wealth, or enforced by conquest. It is evident, that as any man acts in a wider compass, he must be more exposed to opposition from enmity, or miscarriage from chance. whoever has many to please or to govern, must use the ministry of many agents, some of whom will be wicked, and some ignorant ; by some he will be misled, and by others betrayed. If he gratifies one he will offend another : those that are not favoured will think themselves injured ; and, since favours can be conferred upon few, the greater number will be always discontented.'

'the discontent,' said the princess, 'which is thus unreasonable, I hope that I shall always have spirit to despise, and you power to repress.'

'Discontent,' answered Rasselas, 'will not always be without reason under the most just and vigilant administration of publick affairs. None, however attentive, can always discover that merit which indigence or faction may happen to obscure ; and none, however power-

tal, can always reward it. Yet, he that sees inferior desert advanced above him, will naturally impute that preference to partiality or caprice, and indeed it can scarcely be hoped, that any man, however magnanimous by nature, or exalted by condition, will be able to persist forever in the fixed and inexorable justice of distribution : he will sometimes indulge his own affections, and sometimes those of his favourites ; he will permit some to please him who can never serve him ; he will discover in those whom he loves, qualities which in reality they do not possess ; and to those from whom he receives pleasure, he will in his turn endeavour to give it : thus will recommendations sometimes prevail which were purchased by money, or by the more destructive bribery of flattery and servility.

‘ He that has much to do will do something wrong, and of that wrong must suffer the consequences ; and if it were possible that he should always act rightly, yet when such numbers are to judge of his conduct, the bad will censure and obstruct him by malévolence, and the good sometimes by mistake.

‘ the highest stations cannot therefore hope to be the abodes of happiness, which I would willingly believe to have fled from thrones and palaces to seats of humble privacy and placid obscurity : for what can hinder the

satisfaction, or intercept the expectations of him whose abilities are adequate to his employments ; who sees with his own eyes the whole circuit of his influence ; who chooses by his own knowledge all whom he trusts ; and whom none are tempted to deceive by hope or fear ? surely, he has nothing to do but to love, and to be loved ; to be virtuous, and to be happy.

‘ Whether perfect happiness would be procured by perfect goodness,’ said Nekayah, ‘ this world will never afford an opportunity of deciding : but this, at least, may be maintained, that we do not always find visible happiness in proportion to visible virtue. All natural, and almost all political evils are incident alike to the bad and good : they are confounded in the misery of a famine, and not much distinguished in the fury of a faction ; they sink together in a tempest, and are driven together from their country by invaders. All that virtue can afford is quietness of conscience, a steady prospect of a happier state : this may enable us to endure calamity with patience ; but remember, that patience must suppose pain.’

‘ Dear princess,’ said Rasselas, ‘ you fall into the common errors of exaggeratory declamation, by producing, in a familiar disquisition, examples of national calamities,

and scenes of extensive misery, which are found in books rather than in the world, and which, as they are horrid, are ordained to be rare. Let us not imagine evils which we do not feel, nor injure life by misrepresentations. I cannot bear that querulous eloquence which threatens every city with a siege like that of Jerusalem, that makes famine attend on every flight of locusts, and suspends pestilence on the wing of every blast that issues from the south.

On necessary and inevitable evils, which overwhelm kingdoms at once, all dissipation is vain: when they happen, they must be endured. But it is evident that these bursts of universal distress are more dreaded than felt; thousands and ten thousands flourish in youth, and wither in age, without the knowledge of any other than domestick evils; and share the same pleasures and recreations, whether their kings are mild or cruel; whether the armies of their country pursue their enemies, or retreat before them. While courts are disturbed with intestine competitions, and ambassadors are negotiating in foreign countries, the smith still plies his anvil, and the husbandman drives his plough forward; the necessaries of life are required and obtained; and the successive business of the seasons continues to make its wonted revolutions.

‘Let us cease to consider what, perhaps, may never happen, and what, when it shall happen, will laugh at human speculation. We will not endeavour to modify the motions of the elements, or to fix the destiny of kingdoms. It is our business to consider what beings like us may perform; each labouring for his own happiness, by promoting within his circle, however narrow, the happiness of others.

‘Marriage is evidently the dictate of nature; men and women are made to be companions of each other, and therefore I cannot be persuaded but that marriage is one of the means of happiness.’

‘I know not,’ said the princess, ‘whether marriage be more than one of the innumerable modes of human misery. When I see and reckon the various forms of connubial infelicity, the unexpected causes of lasting discord, the diversities of temper, the oppositions of opinion, the rude collisions of contrary desire, where both are urged by violent impulses, the obstinate contests of disagreeable virtues, where both are supported by consciousness of good intention, I am sometimes disposed to think with the severer casuists of most nations, that marriage is rather permitted than approved, and that none, but by the instigation of a passion too much indulged, entangle themselves with indissoluble compacts.’

‘You seem to forget,’ replied Rasselas, ‘that you have, even now, represented celibacy as less happy than marriage. Both conditions may be bad, but they cannot both be worst. Thus it happens when wrong opinions are entertained, that they mutually destroy each other, and leave the mind open to truth.’

‘I did not expect,’ answered the princess, ‘to hear that imputed to falsehood which is the consequence only of frailty. To the mind, as to the eye, it is difficult to compare with exactness, objects vast in their extent, and various in their parts. Where we see or conceive the whole at once, we readily note the discriminations, and decide the preference : but of two systems, of which neither can be surveyed by any human being in its full compass of magnitude, and multiplicity of complication, where is the wonder, that judging of the whole by parts, I am alternately affected by one and the other, as either presses on my memory or fancy ? We differ from ourselves just as we differ from each other, when we see only part of the question, as in the multifarious relations of politicks and morality ; but when we perceive the whole at once, as in numerical computations, all agree in one judgment, and none ever varies his opinion.’

‘Let us not add,’ said the prince, ‘to the other evils of life, the bitterness of controversy, nor endeavour to vie with each other in subtilties of argument. We are employed in a search, of which both are equally to enjoy the success, or suffer by the miscarriage. It is therefore fit that we assist each other. You surely conclude too hastily from the infelicity of marriage against its institution : will not the misery of life prove equally, that life cannot be the gift of heaven ? the world must be peopled by marriage, or peopled without it.’

‘How the world is to be peopled,’ returned Nekayah, ‘is not my care, and needs not be yours. I see no danger that the present generation should omit to leave successors behind them : we are not now inquiring for the world, but for ourselves.’

‘the good of the whole,’ says Rasselas, ‘is the same with the good of all its parts. If marriage be best for mankind, it must be evidently best for individuals ; or a permanent and necessary duty must be the cause of evil, and some must be inevitably sacrificed to the convenience of others. In the estimate which you have made of the two states, it appears, that the incommodities of a single life are in a great measure necessary and cer-

tain, but those of the conjugal state accidental and avoidable.

‘ I cannot forbear to flatter myself, that prudence and benevolence will make marriage happy. the general folly of mankind is the cause of general complaint. what can be expected but disappointment and repentance from a choice made in the immaturity of youth ; in the ardour of desire ; without judgment, without foresight, without inquiry after conformity of opinions, similarity of manners, rectitude of judgment, or purity of sentiment ?

‘ such is the common process of marriage. A youth and maiden meeting by chance, or brought together by artifice, exchange glances, reciprocate civilities, go home and dream of one another. Having little to divert attention, or diversify thought, they find themselves uneasy when they are apart, and therefore conclude that they shall be happy together. they marry ; and discover what nothing but voluntary blindness before had concealed ; they wear out life in altercations, and change nature with cruelty. .

‘ From those early marriages proceeds likewise the rivalry of parents and children : the son is eager to enjoy the world before the father is willing to forsake it, and there is hardly room at once for two generations. the

daughter begins to bloom before the mother can be content to fade, and neither can forbear to wish for the absence of the other.

‘Surely, all these evils may be avoided by that deliberation and delay which prudence prescribes to irrevocable choice. In the variety and jollity of youthful pleasures life may be well enough supported without the help of a partner. Longer time will increase experience, and wider views will allow better opportunities of inquiry and selection : one advantage at least, will be certain : the parents will be visibly older than their children.’

‘What reason cannot collect,’ said Nekayah, ‘and what experiment has not yet taught, can be known only from the report of others. I have been told, that late marriages are not eminently happy. This is a question too important to be neglected, and I have often proposed it to those whose accuracy of remark, and comprehensiveness of knowledge, made their suffrages worthy of regard. They have generally determined, that it is dangerous for a man and woman to suspend their fate upon each other, at a time when opinions are fixed, and habits are established ; when friendships have been contracted on both sides ; when life has been planned into method, and the

mind has long enjoyed the contemplation of its own prospects.

‘It is scarcely possible that two, travelling through the world under the conduct of chance, should have been both directed to the same path : and it will not often happen that either will quit the track which custom has made pleasing. When the desultory levity of youth has settled into regularity, it is soon succeeded by pride, ashamed to yield ; or obstinacy, delighting to contend : and even though mutual esteem produces mutual desire to please, time itself, as it modifies unchangeably the external mien, determines likewise the direction of the passions, and gives an inflexible rigidity to the manners. Long customs are not easily broken : he that attempts to change the course of his own life, very often labours in vain ; and how shall we do that for others, which we are seldom able to do for ourselves ?’

‘But surely,’ said the prince, ‘you suppose the chief motive of choice forgotten or neglected. Whenever I shall seek a wife, it shall be my first question, whether she be willing to be led by reason.’

‘Thus it is,’ said Nekayah, ‘that philosophers are deceived. There are a thousand familiar disputes which reason never can decide ; questions that elude investigation, and make logic ridiculous ; cases where some-

thing must be done, and where little can be said. Consider the state of mankind, and inquire how few can be supposed to act upon any occasion, whether great or small, with all the reasons of action present to their minds : wretched would be the pair above all names of wretchedness, who should be doomed to adjust by reason, every morning, all the minute detail of a domestick day.

‘ those who marry at an advanced age will probably escape the encroachments of their children ; but in diminution of this advantage, they will be likely to leave them, ignorant and helpless, to a guardian’s mercy ; or, if that should not happen, they must at least go out of the world before they see those whom they love best, either wise or great : from their children, if they have less to fear, they have less also to hope ; and they lose without equivalent, the joys of early love, and the convenience of uniting with manners pliant, and minds susceptible of new impressions, which might wear away their dissimilitudes by long cohabitation ; as soft bodies, by continual attrition, conform their surfaces to each other. I believe it will be found, that those who marry late are best pleased with their children, and those who marry early, with their partners.’

‘the union of these two affections,’ said Rasselas, ‘would produce all that could be wished. Perhaps there is a time when marriage might unite them ; a time neither too early for the father, nor too late for the husband.’

‘Every hour,’ answered the princess, ‘confirms my prejudice in favour of the position so often uttered by the mouth of Imlac, ‘that nature sets her gifts on the right hand, and on the left.’ those conditions which flatter hope and attract desire are so constituted, that as we approach one, we recede from another. there are goods so opposed, that we cannot seize both, but, by too much prudence, may pass between them at too great a distance to reach either. this is often the fate of long consideration ; he does nothing who endeavours to do more than is allowed to humanity. Flatter not yourself with contrarieties of pleasure. Of the blessings set before you make your choice, and be content. No man can taste the fruits of autumn while he is delighting his scent with the flowers of the spring : no man can, at the same time, fill his cup from the source and from the mouth of the Nile.’

Here Imlac entered, and interrupted them. ‘Imlac,’ said Rasselas, ‘I have been taking from the princess the

dismal history of private life, and am almost discouraged from further search.'

'It seems to me,' said Imlac, 'that while you are making the choice of life, you neglect to live. You wander about a single city, which, however large and diversified, can now afford few novelties, and forget that you are in a country, famous among the earliest monarchies for the power and wisdom of its inhabitants; a country where the sciences first dawned that illuminate the world, and beyond which the arts cannot be traced of civil society or domestick life.

'the old Egyptians have left behind them monuments of industry and power, before which all European magnificence is confessed to fade away. the ruins of their architecture are the schools of modern builders, and from the wonders which time has spared we may conjecture, though uncertainly, what it has destroyed.'

'My curiosity,' said Rasselas, 'does not very strongly lead me to survey piles of stone, or mounds of earth; my business is with man. I came hither not to measure fragments of temples, or trace cloaked aqueducts, but to look upon the various scenes of the present world.'

'the things that are now before us,' said the princess, 'require attention, and deserve it. what have I to do with the heroes, or the monuments of ancient times?'

with times which never can return, and heroes whose form of life was different from all that the present condition of mankind requires or allows ?

‘To know any thing,’ returned the poet, ‘we must know its effects ; to see men we must see their works, that we may learn what reason has dictated, or passion has incited, and find what are the most powerful motives of action. To judge rightly of the present, we must oppose it to the past : for all judgment is comparative, and of the future nothing can be known. the truth is, that no mind is much employed upon the present : recollection and anticipation fill up almost all our moments. Our passions are joy and grief, love and hatred, hope and fear. Of joy and grief, the past is the object ; and the future, of hope and fear ; even love and hatred respect the past, for the cause must have been before the effect.

‘the present state of things is the consequence of the former, and it is natural to inquire what were the sources of the good that we enjoy, or the evil that we suffer. If we act only for ourselves, to neglect the study of history is not prudent ; if we are intrusted with the care of others, it is not just. ignorance, when it is voluntary, is criminal : and he may properly be charged with evil, who refused to learn how he might prevent it.

there is no part of history so generally useful as that which relates the progress of the human mind, the gradual improvement of reason, the successive advances of science, the vicissitudes of learning and ignorance which are the light and darkness of thinking beings, the extinction and resuscitation of arts, and the revolutions of the intellectual world. If accounts of battles and invasions are peculiarly the business of princes, the useful or elegant arts are not to be neglected ; those who have kingdoms to govern, have understandings to cultivate.

Example is always more efficacious than precept. A soldier is formed in war, and a painter must copy pictures. In this, contemplative life has the advantage, great actions are seldom seen, but the labours of art are always at hand for those who desire to know what art has been able to perform.

When the eye, or the imagination is struck with an uncommon work, the next transition of an active mind is to the means by which it was performed. Here begins the true use of such contemplation ; we enlarge our comprehension by new ideas, and perhaps recover some art lost to mankind, or learn what is less perfectly known in our own country. At least, we compare our

ments, or, what is the first motion towards good, discover our defects.'

'I am willing,' said the prince, 'to see all that can deserve my search.' 'And I,' said the princess, 'shall rejoice to learn something of the manners of antiquity.'

'the most pompous monument of Egyptian greatness, and one of the most bulky works of manual industry,' said Imlac, 'are the pyramids: fabricks raised before the time of history, and of which the earliest narratives afford us only uncertain traditions. Of these the greatest is still standing, very little injured by time.'

'Let us visit them to-morrow,' said Nekayah. 'I have often heard of the pyramids, and shall not rest till I have seen them within and without with my own eyes.'

the resolution being thus taken, they set out the next day. they laid tents upon their camels, being resolved to stay among the pyramids till their curiosity was fully satisfied. they travelled gently, turned aside to every thing remarkable, stopped from time to time, and conversed with the inhabitants, and observed the various appearances of towns ruined, and inhabited; of wild, and cultivated nature.

When they came to the great pyramid, they were astonished at the extent of the base, and the height of the top. Imlac explained to them the principles upon which the pyramidal form was chosen for a fabrick intended to co-extend its duration with that of the world: he showed, that its gradual diminution gave it such stability as defeated all the common attacks of the elements, and could scarcely be overthrown by earthquakes themselves, the least resistible of natural violence. A concussion that should shatter the pyramid would threaten the dissolution of the continent.

they measured all its dimensions, and pitched their tents at its foot. Next day they prepared to enter its interior apartments, and having hired the common guides climbed up to the first passage, when the favourite of the princess, looking into the cavity, stepped back and trembled. ‘Pekuah,’ said the princess, ‘of what art thou afraid?’ ‘Of the narrow entrance,’ answered the lady, ‘and of the dreadful gloom. I dare not enter a place which must surely be inhabited by unquiet souls. the original possessors of these dreadful vaults will start up before us, and perhaps shut us in forever.’ she spoke, and threw her arms round the neck of her mistress.

‘If all your fear be of apparitions,’ said the prince, ‘I will promise you safety : there is no danger from the dead ; he that is once buried will be seen no more.’

‘that the dead are seen no more,’ said Imlac, ‘I will not undertake to maintain, against the concurrent, and unvaried testimony of all ages, and of all nations. there is no people, rude or learned, among whom apparitions of the dead are not related and believed. this opinion, which perhaps prevails as far as human nature is diffused, could become universal only by its truth : those that never heard of one another, would not have agreed in a tale which nothing but experience can make credible. that it is doubted by single cavillers, can very little weaken the general evidence ; and some who deny it with their tongues confess it by their fears. Yet I do not mean to add new terrors to those which have already seized upon Pekuah. there can be no reason why spectres should haunt the pyramid more than other places, or why they should have power or will to hurt innocence and purity. Our entrance is no violation of their privileges ; we can take nothing from them ; how then can we offend them ?’

‘My dear Pekuah,’ said the princess, ‘I will always go before you, and Imlac shall follow you : remember that you are the companion of the princess of Abyssinia.’

‘ If the princeſs is pleaſed that her ſervant ſhould die,’ returned the lady, ‘ let her command ſome death leſs dreadful than enclōſure in thiſ horrid cavern. You know I dare not diſobey you ; I muſt go, if you command me ; but, if I once enter, I never ſhall come back.’

the princeſs ſaw that her fear was too ſtrong for expoſtulation or reproof, and embracing her, told her that ſhe ſhould ſtay in the tent till their return. Pékuaſh was yet not ſatiſfied, but entreated the princeſs not to purſue ſo dreadful a purpoſe as that of entering the-receſſes of the pyramid. ‘ though I cannot teach courage,’ ſaid Nekayah, ‘ I muſt not learn cowardice ; nor leave at laſt undone what I came hither only to do.’

Pékuaſh deſcended to the tents, and the reſt entered the pyramid : they paſſed through the galleries, ſurveyed the vaults of marble, and examined the cheſt in which the body of the founder is ſuppoſed to have been repoſited. they then ſat down in one of the moſt ſpacious chambers, to reſt awhile before they attempted to return.

‘ We have now,’ ſaid Imlac, ‘ gratified our minds with an exact view of the greateſt work of man, except the wall of china.

‘Of the wall it is very easy to assign the motive. It secured a wealthy and timorous nation from the incursions of barbarians, whose unskilfulness in arts made it easier for them to supply their wants by rapine than by industry, and who, from time to time poured in upon the habitations of peaceful commerce, as vultures descend upon domestick fowl. their celerity and fierceness made the wall necessary, and their ignorance made it efficacious.

‘But for the pyramids no reason has ever been given adequate to the cost and labour of the work. the narrowness of the chambers proves that it could afford no retreat from enemies, and treasures might have been repositied at far less expence with equal security. It seems to have been erected only in compliance with that hunger of imagination which preys incessantly upon life, and must be always appeased by some employment. those who have already all that they can enjoy, must enlarge their desires. He that has built for use, till use is supplied, must begin to build for vanity, and extend his plan to the utmost power of human performance, that he may not be soon reduced to form another wish.

‘I consider this mighty structure as a monument of the insufficiency of human enjoyments. A king, whose power is unlimited, and whose treasures surmount all need

and imaginary wants, is compelled to [^]solace, by the erection of a pyramid, the satiety of dominion and tastelessness of pleasures, and to amuse the tediousness of declining life, by seeing thousands labouring without end, and one stone, for no purpose, laid upon another: whoever thou art, that, not content with a moderate condition, imaginest happiness in royal magnificence, and dreamest that command or riches can feed the appetite of novelty with perpetual gratifications, survey the pyramids, and confess thy folly !

they rose up, and returned through the cavity at which they had entered, and the princess prepared for her favourite a long narrative of dark labyrinths, and costly rooms, and of the different impressions which the varieties of the way had made upon her. But when they came to their train, they found every one silent and dejected : the men discovered shame and fear in their countenances, and the women were weeping in the tents.

What had happened they did not try to conjecture, but immediately inquired. ‘ You had scarcely entered into the pyramid,’ said one of the attendants, ‘ when a troop of arabs rushed upon us : we were too few to resist them, and too slow to escape. they were about to search the tents, yet us on our camels, and drive us along

before them, when the approach of some Turkish horsemen put them to flight ; but they seized the lady Pekuah with her two maids, and carried them away : the Turks are now pursuing them by our instigation, but I fear they will not be able to overtake them.'

the princess was overpowered with surprise and grief. Rasselas, in the first heat of his resentment, ordered his servants to follow him, and prepared to pursue the robbers with his sabre in his hand. 'sir,' said Imlac, 'what can you hope from violence or valour ? the arabs are mounted on horses trained to battle and retreat ; we have only beasts of burden. By leaving our present station we may lose the princess, but cannot hope to regain Pekuah.'

In a short time the Turks returned, having not been able to reach the enemy. the princess burst out into new lamentations, and Rasselas could scarcely forbear to reproach them with cowardice ; but Imlac was of opinion, that the escape of the arabs was no addition to their misfortune, for perhaps they would have killed their captives rather than have resigned them.

there was nothing to be hoped from longer stay. they returned to Cairo repenting of their curiosity, censuring the negligence of the government, lamenting

their own rashness, which had neglected to procure a guard, imagining many expedients by which the loss of Pekuah might have been prevented, and resolving to do something for her recovery, though none could find any thing proper to be done.

Nekayah retired to her chamber where her women attempted to comfort her, by telling her that all had their troubles, and that lady Pekuah had enjoyed much happiness in the world for a long time, and might reasonably expect a change of fortune. they hoped that some good would befall her wheresoever she was, and that their mistress would find another friend who might supply her place.

the princess made them no answer, and they continued the form of condolence, not much grieved in their hearts that the favourite was lost.

Next day the prince presented to the bassa a memorial of the wrong which he had suffered, and a petition for redress. the bassa threatened to punish the robbers, but did not attempt to catch them, nor indeed, would any account or description be given by which he might direct the pursuit.

It soon appeared that nothing would be done by authority. Governours being accustomed to hear of more crimes than they can punish, and more wrongs than

they can redress, set themselves at ease by indiscriminate negligence, and presently forget the request when they lose sight of the petitioner.

Imlac then endeavoured to gain some intelligence by private agents. He found many who pretended to an exact knowledge of all the haunts of the arabs, and to regular correspondence with their chiefs, and who readily undertook the recovery of Pekuah. Of these, some were furnished with money for their journey, and came back no more ; some were liberally paid for accounts which a few days discovered to be false. But the princess would not suffer any means, however improbable, to be left untried. While she was doing something she kept her hope alive. As one expedient failed, another was suggested ; when one messenger returned unsuccessful, another was dispatched to a different quarter.

Two months had now passed, and of Pekuah nothing had been heard ; the hope which they had endeavoured to raise in each other grew more languid, and the princess, when she saw nothing more to be tried, sunk down inconsolable in hopeless dejection. A thousand times she reproached herself with the easy compliance by which she permitted her favourite to stay behind her, ' Had not my fondness,' said she, ' lessened my authority, Pekuah had not dared to talk of her terrors. ... she

ought to have feared me more than spectres. A severe look would have overpowered her ; a peremptory command would have compelled obedience. Why did foolish indulgence prevail upon me ? Why did I not speak, and refuse to hear ?

‘ Great princess,’ said Imlac, ‘ do not reproach yourself for your virtue, or consider that as blameable by which evil has accidentally been caused. Your tenderness for the timidity of Pekuah was generous and kind. When we act according to our duty, we commit the event to him by whose laws our actions are governed, and who will suffer none to be finally punished for obedience. When, in prospect of some good, whether natural or moral, we break the rules prescribed us, we withdraw from the direction of superiour wisdom, and take all consequences upon ourselves. Men cannot so far know the connexion of causes and events, as that he may venture to do wrong in order to do right. When we pursue our end by lawful means, we may always console our miscarriage by the hope of future recompence. When we consult only our own policy, and attempt to find a nearer way to good, by overleaping the settled boundaries of right and wrong, we cannot be happy even by success, because we cannot escape the consciousness of our fault : but if we miscarry, the disappointment is

irremediably embittered. How comfortless is the sorrow of him who feels at once the pangs of guilt, and the vexation of calamity which guilt has brought upon him ?

‘ Consider, princess, what would have been your condition, if the lady Pekuah had entreated to accompany you, and being compelled to stay in the tents, had been carried away ; or how would you have born the thought, if you had forced her into the pyramid, and she had died before you in agonies of terror ?’

‘ Had either happened,’ said Nekayah, ‘ I could not have endured life till now : I should have been tortured to madness by the remembrance of such cruelty, or must have pined away in abhorrence of myself.’

‘ This at least,’ said Imlac, ‘ is the present reward of virtuous conduct, that no unlucky consequence can oblige us to repent it.’

Nekayah being thus reconciled to herself, found that no evil is insupportable but that which is accompanied with consciousness of wrong. She was, from that time, delivered from the violence of tempestuous sorrow, and sunk into silent pensiveness and gloomy tranquillity. She sat from morning to evening recollecting all that had been done or said by her Pekuah, ~~treated~~

up with care every trifle on which Pekuah had set an accidental value, and which might recall to mind any little incident or careless conversation. the sentiments of her, whom she now expected to see no more, were treasured in her memory as rules of life, and she deliberated to no other end than to conjecture on any occasion what would have been the opinion and counsel of Pekuah.

the women by whom she was attended knew nothing of her real condition, and therefore she could not talk to them but with caution and reserve. she began to remit her curiosity, having no great care to collect notions which she had no convenience of uttering. Rasselas endeavoured first to comfort, and afterwards to divert her; he hired musicians, to whom she seemed to listen, but did not hear them, and procured masters to instruct her in various arts, whose lectures, when they visited her again, were again to be repeated. she had lost her taste of pleasure, and her ambition of excellence; and her mind, though forced into short excursions, always recurred to the image of her friend.

Imlac was every morning earnestly enjoined to renew his inquiries, and was asked every night whether he had yet heard of Pekuah, till not being able to return the princess the answer that she desired, he was less and less willing to come into her presence. she observed

his backwardness, and commanded him to attend her. 'You are not,' said she, 'to confound impatience with resentment, or to suppose that I charge you with negligence, because I repine at your unsuccessfulness. I do not much wonder at your absence; I know that the unhappy are never pleasing, and that all naturally avoid the contagion of misery. To hear complaints is wearisome alike to the wretched and the happy; for who would cloud, by adventitious grief, the short gleams of gaiety which life allows us? or who, that is struggling under his own evils, will add to them the miseries of another?

'The time is at hand, when none shall be disturbed any longer by the sighs of Nehayah: my search after happiness is now at an end. I am resolved to retire from the world with all its flatteries and deceptions, and will hide myself in solitude without any other care than to compose my thoughts, and regulate my hours by a constant succession of innocent occupations, till, with a mind purified from all earthly desires, I shall enter into that state, to which all are hastening, and in which I hope again to enjoy the friendship of Pekuah.'

'Do not entangle your mind,' said Imlac, 'by irrevocable determinations, nor increase the burden of life by a voluntary accumulation of misery: the weariness of re-

tirement will continue or increase when the loss of Pekuah is forgotten. . . . that you have been deprived of one pleasure, is no very good reason for rejection of the rest.'

'since Pekuah was taken from me,' said the princess, 'I have no pleasure to reject or to retain. she that has no one to love or trust has little to hope. she wants the radical principle of happiness. We may, perhaps, allow, that what satisfaction this world can afford, must arise from the conjunction of wealth, knowledge, and goodness: wealth is nothing but as it is bestowed, and knowledge nothing but as it is communicated: they must therefore be imparted to others, and to whom could I now delight to impart them? Goodness affords the only comfort which can be enjoyed without a partner, and goodness may be practised in retirement.'

'How far solitude may admit goodness or advance it, I shall not,' replied Imlac, 'dispute at present. Remember the confession of the pious hermit. You will wish to return into the world, when the image of your companion has left your thoughts.' 'that time,' said Nekayah, 'will never come. the generous frankness, the modest obsequiousness, and the faithful secrecy of my dear Pekuah, will always be more missed, as I shall live longer to see vice and folly.'

‘the state of a mind oppressed with a sudden calamity,’ said Imlac, ‘is like that of the fabulous inhabitants of the new created earth, who, when the first night came upon them, supposed that day would never return. When the clouds of sorrow gather over us, we see nothing beyond them, nor can imagine how they will be dispelled : yet a new day succeeded to the night, and sorrow is never long without a dawn of ease. But they who restrain themselves from receiving comfort, do as the savages would have done, had they put out their eyes when it was dark. Our minds, like our bodies, are in continual flux ; something is hourly lost, and something acquired. To lose much at once is inconvenient to either, but while the vital powers remain uninjured, nature will find the means of reparation. Distance has the same effect on the mind as on the eye, and while we glide along the stream of time, whatever we leave behind us is always lessening, and that which we approach increasing in magnitude. Do not suffer life to stagnate ; it will grow muddy for want of motion : commit yourself again to the current of the world ; Pekuah will vanish by degrees ; you will meet in your way some other favourite, or learn to diffuse yourself in general conversation.’

‘At least,’ said the prince, ‘do not despair before all

remedies have been tried : the inquiry after the unfortunate lady is still continued, and shall be carried on with yet greater diligence, on condition that you will promise to wait a year for the event, without any unalterable resolution.'

Nekayah thought this a reasonable demand, and made the promise to her brother, who had been advised by Imlac to require it. Imlac had, indeed, no great hope of regaining Pekuah, but he supposed, that if he could secure the interval of a year, the princess would be then in no danger of a cloister.

Nekayah, seeing that nothing was omitted for the recovery of her favourite, and having, by her promise, set her intention of retirement at a distance, began imperceptibly to return to common cares and common pleasures. She rejoiced without her own consent at the suspension of her sorrows, and sometimes caught herself with indignation in the act of turning away her mind from the remembrance of her whom yet she resolved never to forget.

She then appointed a certain hour of the day for meditation on the merits and fondness of Pekuah, and for some weeks retired constantly at the time fixed, and returned with her eyes swollen and her countenance

clouded. By degrees she grew less scrupulous, and suffered any important and pressing avocation to delay the tribute of daily tears. She then yielded to less occasions ; sometimes forgot what she was indeed afraid to remember, and, at last, wholly released herself from the duty of periodical affliction.

Her real love of Pekuah was yet not diminished. A thousand occurrences brought her back to memory, and a thousand wants, which nothing but the confidence of friendship can supply, made her frequently regretted. She therefore solicited Imlac, never to desist from inquiry, and to leave no art of intelligence untried, that at least, she might have the comfort of knowing that she did not suffer by negligence or sluggishness. ‘ Yet what,’ said she, ‘ is to be expected from our pursuit of happiness, when we find the state of life to be such, that happiness itself is the cause of misery ? Why should we endeavour to attain that, of which the possession cannot be secured ? I shall henceforward fear to yield my heart to excellence, however bright, or to fondness, however tender, lest I should lose again what I have lost in Pekuah.’

In seven months, one of the messengers, who had been sent away upon the day when the promise was

Drawn from the princess, returned, after many unsuccessful rambles from the borders of Nubia, with an account that Pekuah was in the hands of an Arab chief, who possessed a castle or fortress on the extremity of Egypt. the Arab, whose revenue was plunder, was willing to restore her, with her two attendants, for two hundred ounces of gold.

the price was no subject of debate. the princess was in extacies when she heard that her favourite was alive, and might so cheaply be ransomed. she could not think of delaying for a moment Pekuah's happiness or her own, but entreated her brother to send back the messenger with the sum required. Imlac being consulted, was not very confident of the veracity of the relater, and was still more doubtful of the Arab's faith, who might, if he were too liberally trusted, detain at once the money and the captives. He thought it dangerous to put themselves in the power of the Arab, by going into his district, and could not expect that the rover would so much expose himself as to come into the lower country, where he might be seized by the forces of the bassa.

It is difficult to negotiate where neither will trust. But Imlac, after some deliberation, directed the messenger to propose that Pekuah should be conducted by ten

horsemen to the monastery of ^Asaint Antony, which is situated in the deserts of Upper Egypt, where she should be met by the same number, and her ransom should be paid.

that no time might be lost, as they expected that the proposal would not be refused, they immediately began their journey to the monastery ; and, when they arrived, Imlac went forward with the former messenger to the Arab's fortress. Rasselas was desirous to go with them ; but neither his sister nor Imlac would consent. the Arab, according to the custom of his nation, observed the laws of hospitality with great exactness to those who put themselves into his power, and, in a few days, brought Pekuah with her maids, by easy journeys, to the place appointed, where receiving the stipulated price, he restored her with great respect to liberty and her friends, and undertook to conduct them back towards Cairo beyond all danger of robbery or violence.

the princess and her favourite embraced each other with transport too violent to be expressed, and went out together to pour tears of tenderness in secret, and exchange professions of kindness and gratitude. After a few hours they returned into the refectory of the convent, where, in the presence of the prior and his brethren,

ren, the prince required of Pekuah the history of her adventures.

‘At what time, and in what manner, I was forced away,’ said Pekuah, ‘your servants have told you. the suddenness of the event struck me with surprise, and I was at first rather stupified than agitated with any passion of either fear or sorrow. My confusion was increased by the speed and tumult of our flight, while we were followed by the Turks, who, as it seemed, soon despaired to overtake us, or were afraid of those whom they made a show of menacing.

‘When the Arabs saw themselves out of danger they slackened their course, and as I was less harassed by external violence, I began to feel more uneasiness in my mind. After some time we stopped near a spring shaded with trees in a pleasant meadow, where we were set upon the ground, and offered such refreshments as our masters were partaking. I was suffered to sit with my maids apart from the rest, and none attempted to comfort or insult us. Here I first began to feel the full weight of my misery. the girls sat weeping in silence, and from time to time looked on me for succour. I knew not to what condition we were doomed, nor could conjecture where would be the place of our captivity, or

whence to draw any hope of deliverance. I was in the hands of robbers and savages, and had no reason to suppose that their pity was more than their justice, or that they would forbear the gratification of any ardour of desire, or caprice of cruelty. I, however, kissed my maids, and endeavoured to pacify them, by remarking, that we were yet treated with decency, and that, since we were now carried beyond pursuit, there was no danger of violence to our lives.

When we were to be set again on horseback, my maids clung round me, and refused to be parted, but I commanded them not to irritate those who had us in their power. We travelled the remaining part of the day through an unfrequented and pathless country, and came by moon-light to the side of a hill, where the rest of the troop was stationed. Their tents were pitched, and their fires kindled, and our chief was welcomed as a man much beloved by his dependants.

We were received into a large tent, where we found women who had attended their husbands in the expedition. They set before us the supper which they had provided, and I eat it rather to encourage my maids, than to comply with any appetite of my own. When the meat was taken away, they spread the carpets for repose. I was weary, and hoped to find in sleep that remission of

distress which nature seldom denies. Ordering myself therefore to be undrest, I observed, that the women looked very earnestly upon me, not expecting, I suppose, to see me so submissively attended. When my upper vest was taken off, they were apparently struck with the splendour of my clothes, and one of them timorously laid her hand upon the embroidery. She then went out, and in a short time came back with another woman, who seemed to be of higher rank, and greater authority. She did, at her entrance, the usual act of reverence, and taking me by the hand, placed me in a smaller tent, spread with finer carpets, where I spent the night quietly with my maids.

‘In the morning, as I was sitting on the grass, the chief of the troop came towards me. I rose up to receive him, and he bowed with great respect. ‘Illustrious lady,’ said he, ‘my fortune is better than I had presumed to hope; I am told by my women, that I have a princess in my camp.’ ‘sir,’ answered I, ‘your women have deceived themselves and you; I am not a princess, but an unhappy stranger, who intended soon to have left this country, in which I am now to be imprisoned for ever.’ ‘whoever, or whencesoever, you are,’ returned the Arab, ‘your dress, and that of your servants, show your rank to be high, and your wealth

to be great. Why should you, who can so easily procure your ransom, think yourself in danger of perpetual captivity? the purpose of my incursions is to increase my riches, or, more properly, to gather tribute. the sons of Ishmael are the natural and hereditary lords of this part of the continent, which is usurped by late invaders, and low-born tyrants, from whom we are compelled to take by the sword what is denied to justice. the violence of war admits no distinction; the lance, that is lifted at guilt and power, will sometimes fall on innocence and gentleness.'

'How little,' said I, 'did I expect that yesterday it should have fallen upon me.'

'Misfortunes,' answered the Arab, 'should always be expected. If the eye of hostility could learn reverence or pity, excellence like yours had been exempt from injury. But the angels of affliction spread their toils alike for the virtuous and the wicked, for the mighty and the mean. Do not be disconsolate: I am not one of the lawless and cruel rovers of the desert; I know the rules of civil life: I will fix your ransom, give a passport to your messenger, and perform my stipulation with nice punctuality.'

'You will easily believe that I was pleased with his courtesy: and finding that his predominant passion was

desire of money, I began now to think my danger less, for I knew that no sum would be thought too great for the release of Pekuah. I told him that he should have no reason to charge me with ingratitude, if I was used with kindness, and that any ransom which could be expected for a maid of common rank, would be paid ; but that he must not persist to rate me as a princess. He said, he would consider what he should demand, and then smiling, bowed and retired.

‘ soon after the women came about me, each contending to be more officious than the other, and my maids themselves were served with reverence. We travelled onward by short journies. On the fourth day the chief told me, that my ransom must be two hundred ounces of gold ; which I not only promised him, but told him, that I would add fifty more, if I and my maids were honourably treated.

‘ I never knew the power of gold before. From that time I was the leader of the troop. the march of every day was longer or shorter as I commanded, and the tents were pitched where I chose to rest. We now had camels and other conveniences for travel, my own women were always at my side, and I amused myself with observing the manners of the vagrant nations, and with viewing remains of ancient edifices, with which

these deserted countries appear to have been, in some distant age, lavishly embellished.

‘ the chief of the band was a man far from illiterate : he was able to travel by the stars or the compass, and had marked in his erratick expeditions, such places as are most worthy the notice of a passenger. He observed to me, that buildings are always best preserved in places little frequented, and difficult of access : for, when once a country declines from its primitive splendour, the more inhabitants are left, the quicker ruin will be made. Walls supply stones more easily than quarries, and palaces and temples will be demolished, to make stables of granite, and cottages of porphyry.

‘ We wandered about in this manner for some weeks, whether, as our chief pretended, for my gratification, or as I rather suspected, for some convenience of his own. I endeavoured to appear contented where sullenness and resentment would have been of no use, and that endeavour conducted much to the calmness of my mind ; but, my heart was always with Nekayah, and the troubles of the night much overbalanced the amusements of the day. My women, who threw all their cares upon their mistress, set their minds at ease from the time when they saw me treated with respect, and gave

themselves up to the incidental alleviations of our fatigue without solicitude or sorrow. I was pleased with their pleasure, and animated with their confidence. My condition had lost much of its terror, since I found that the Arab ranged the country merely to get riches, avarice is an uniform and tractable vice : other intellectual distempers are different in different constitutions of mind ; that which soothes the pride of one will offend the pride of another ; but to the favour of the covetous there is a ready way ; bring money and nothing is denied.

‘ At last we came to the dwelling of our chief, a strong and spacious house built with stone, in an island of the Nile, which lies, as I was told, under the tropick. ‘ Lady,’ said the Arab, ‘ you shall rest after your journey a few weeks in this place, where you are to consider yourself as sovereign. My occupation is war : I have therefore chosen this obscure residence, from which I can issue unexpected, and to which I can retire unpursued. You may now repose in security : here are few pleasures, but here is no danger.’ He then led me into the inner apartments, and seating me on the richest couch, bowed to the ground. His women, who considered me as a rival, looked on me with malignity ; but being soon informed that I was a great lady detained

only for my ransom, they began to vie with each other in obsequiousness and reverence.

‘ Being again comforted with new assurances of speedy liberty, I was for some days diverted from impatience by the novelty of the place. the turrets overlooked the country to a great distance, and afforded a view of many windings of the stream. In the day I wandered from one place to another, as the course of the sun varied the splendour of the prospect, and saw many things which I had never seen before. the crocodiles and river horses are common in this unpeopled region, and I often looked upon them with terror, though I knew that they could not hurt me. For some time I expected to see mermaids and tritons, which, as Imlac has told me, the European travellers have stationed in the Nile, but no such beings ever appeared, and the Arab, when I inquired after them, laughed at my credulity.

‘ At night the Arab always attended me to a tower set apart for celestial observations, where he endeavoured to teach me the names and courses of the stars. I had no great inclination to this study, but an appearance of attention was necessary to please my instructor, who valued himself for his skill; and, in a little while, I found some employment requisite to beguile the tediousness of

time, which was to be passed always amidst the same objects. I was weary of looking in the morning on things from which I had turned away weary in the evening : I therefore was at last willing to observe the stars rather than do nothing, but could not always compose my thoughts, and was very often thinking on Nekayah, when others imagined me contemplating the sky. soon after, the Arab went upon another expedition, and then my only pleasure was to talk with my maids about the accident by which we were carried away, and the happiness that we should all enjoy at the end of our captivity.'

'there were women in your Arab's fortress,' said the princess, 'why did you not make them your companions, enjoy their conversation, and partake their diversions ? In a place where they found business or amusement, why should you alone sit corroded with idle melancholy ? or why could not you bear, for a few months, that condition to which they were condemned for life ?'

'the diversions of the women,' answered Pekuah, 'were only childish play, by which the mind, accustomed to stronger operations, could not be kept busy. I could do all which they delighted in doing by powers merely sensitive, while my intellectual faculties were flown to Cairo. they ran from room to room as a

bird hops from wire to wire in his cage. they danced for the sake of motion, as lambs frisk in a meadow. One sometimes pretended to be hurt, that the rest might be alarmed ; or hid herself, that another might seek her. Part of their time passed in watching the progress of light bodies that floated on the river, and part in marking the various forms into which clouds broke in the sky.

‘ their business was only needle-work, in which I and my maids sometimes helped them ; but you know that the mind will easily straggle from the fingers, nor will you suspect that captivity and absence from Nekayah could receive solace from silken flowers.

‘ Nor was much satisfaction to be hoped from their conversation : for of what could they be expected to talk ? they had seen nothing ; for they had lived from early youth in that narrow spot : of what they had not seen they could have no knowledge, for they could not read. they had no ideas but of the few things that were within their view, and had hardly names for any thing but their clothes and their food. As I bore a superiour character, I was often called to terminate their quarrels, which I decided as equitably as I could. If it could have amused me to hear the complaints of each against the rest, I might have been often detained by long stories ; but the motives of their animosity were

so small that I could not listen without intercepting the tale.'

'How,' said Rasselas, 'can the Arab, whom you represented as a man of more than common accomplishments, take any pleasure in his seraglio, when it is filled only with women like these? Are they exquisitely beautiful?'

'They do not,' said Pekuah, 'want that unassuming and ignoble beauty which may subsist without sprightliness or sublimity, without energy of thought or dignity of virtue. But to a man like the Arab such beauty was only a flower casually plucked and carelessly thrown away. Whatever pleasures he might find among them, they were not those of friendship or society. When they were playing about him he looked on them with inattentive superiority: when they vied for his regard, he sometimes turned away disgusted. As they had no knowledge, their talk could take nothing from the tediousness of life: as they had no choice, their fondness, or their appearance of fondness excited in him neither pride nor gratitude; he was not exalted in his own esteem by the smiles of a woman who saw no other man, nor was much obliged by that regard, of which he could never know the sincerity, and which he might often perceive to be exerted, not so much to delight him, as to

pain a rival. that which he gave and they received as love, was only a careless distribution of superfluous time, such love as man can bestow upon that which he despises ; such as has neither hope nor fear, neither joy nor sorrow.'

' You have reason, lady, to think yourself happy,' said Imlac, ' that you have been thus easily dismissed. How could a mind hungry for knowledge be willing, in an intellectual famine, to lose such a banquet as Pekuah's conversation !'

' I am inclined to believe,' answered Pekuah, ' that he was for some time in suspense ; for notwithstanding his promise, whenever I proposed to despatch a messenger to Cairo, he found some excuse for delay. While I was detained in his house he made many incursions into the neighbouring countries, and perhaps, he would have refused to discharge me, had his plunder been equal to his wishes. He returned always courteous, related his adventures, delighted to hear my observations, and endeavoured to advance my acquaintance with the stars. When I importuned him to send away my letters, he soothed me with professions of honour and sincerity ; and when I could be no longer decently denied, put his troop again in motion, and left me to govern in his absence. I was much afflicted by this studied procrastination, and was sometimes afraid that I should be for-

gotten ; that you would leave Cairo, and I must end my days in an island of the Nile.

‘ I grew at last hopeless and dejected, and cared so little to entertain him, that he for a while more frequently talked with my maids. that he should fall in love with them, or with me, might have been equally fatal, and I was not much pleased with the growing friendship. My anxiety was not long ; for, as I recovered some degree of cheerfulness, he returned to me, and I could not forbear to despise my former uneasiness.

‘ He still delayed to send for my ransom, and would, perhaps, never have determined, had not your agent found his way to him. the gold, which he would not fetch, he could not reject when it was offered. He hastened to prepare for our journey hither, like a man delivered from the pain of an intestine conflict. I took leave of my companions in the house, who dismissed me with cold indifference.’

Nekayah having heard her favourite's relation, rose and embraced her, and Rasselas gave her an hundred ounces of gold, which she presented to the Arab for the fifty that were promised.

they returned to Cairo, and were so well pleased at finding themselves together, that none of them went

much abroad. the prince began to love learning, and one day declared to Imlac, that he intended to devote himself to science, and pass the rest of his days in literary solitude.

‘Before you make your final choice,’ answered Imlac, ‘you ought to examine its hazards, and converse with some of those who are grown old in the company of themselves. I have just left the observatory of one of the most learned astronomers in the world, who has spent forty years in unwearied attention to the motions and appearances of the celestial bodies, and has drawn out his soul in endless calculations. He admits a few friends once a month to hear his deductions and enjoy his discoveries. I was introduced as a man of knowledge worthy of his notice. Men of various ideas, and fluent conversation, are commonly welcome to those whose thoughts have been long fixed upon a single point, and who find the images of other things stealing away. I delighted him with my remarks; he smiled at the narrative of my travels, and was glad to forget the constellations, and descend for a moment into the lower world.

‘On the next day of vacation I renewed my visit, and was so fortunate as to please him again. He relaxed from that time the severity of his rule, and permitted me to enter at my own choice. I found him always

busy, and always glad to be relieved. As each knew much which the other was desirous of learning, we exchanged our notions with great delight. I perceived that I had every day more of his confidence, and always found new cause of admiration in the profundity of his mind. His comprehension is vast, his memory capacious and retentive, his discourse is methodical, and his expression clear.

‘His integrity and benevolence are equal to his learning. His deepest researches and most favourite studies are willingly interrupted for any opportunity of doing good by his counsel or his riches. To his closest retreat, at his most busy moments, all are admitted that want his assistance : ‘For though I exclude idleness and pleasure, I will never,’ says he, ‘bar my doors against charity. To man is permitted the contemplation of the skies, but the practice of virtue is commanded.’

‘Surely,’ said the princess, ‘this man is happy.’

‘I visited him,’ said Imrac, ‘with more and more frequency, and was every time more enamoured of his conversation : he was sublime without haughtiness, courteous without formality, and communicative without ostentation. I was at first, great princess, of your opinion, thought him the happiest of mankind, and often congratulated him on the blessing that he enjoyed. He

seemed to hear nothing with indifference, but the praises of his condition, to which he always returned a general answer, and diverted the conversation to some other ^Atopick.

‘Amidst this willingness to be pleased, and labour to please, I had quickly reason to imagine that some painful sentiment pressed upon his mind. He often looked up earnestly towards the sun, and let his voice fall in the midst of his discourse. He would sometimes when we were alone, gaze upon me in silence with the air of a man who longed to speak what he was yet resolved to suppress. He would often send for me with vehement injunctions of haste, though, when I came to him, he had nothing extraordinary to say. And sometimes, when I was leaving him, would call me back, pause a few moments, and then dismiss me.

‘At last the time came when the secret burst his reserve. We were sitting together last night in the turret of his house, watching the emersion of a satellite of Jupiter. A sudden tempest clouded the sky, and disappointed our observation. We sat awhile silent in the dark, and then he addressed himself to me in these words: ‘Imlac, I have long considered thy friendship as the greatest blessing of my life. Integrity without

knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful. I have found in thee all the qualities requisite for trust, benevolence, experience, and fortitude. I have long discharged an office which I must soon quit at the call of nature, and shall rejoice in the hour of imbecility and pain to devote it upon thee.

‘I thought myself honoured by this testimony, and protested, that whatever could conduce to his happiness would likewise to mine.

‘Hear, Imlac, what thou wilt not without difficulty credit. I have possessed for five years the regulation of weather, and the distribution of the seasons : the sun has listened to my dictates, and passed from tropick to tropick by my direction ; the clouds, at my call, have poured their waters, and the Nile has overflowed at my command ; I have restrained the rage of the dogstar, and mitigated the fervours of the crab. the winds alone, of all the elemental powers, have hitherto refused my authority, and multitudes have perished by equinoctial tempests, which I found myself unable to prohibit or restrain. I have administered this great office with exact justice, and made to the different nations of the earth an impartial dividend of rain and sunshine. What must have been the misery of half the globe, if I had

limited the clouds to particular regions, or confined the sun to either side of the equator.'

'I suppose he discovered in me, through the obscurity of the room, some tokens of amazement and doubt, for, after a short pause, he proceeded thus :

'Not to be easily credited will neither surprise nor offend me ; for I am, probably, the first of human beings to whom this trust has been imparted. Nor do I know whether to deem this distinction a reward or punishment ; since I have possessed it I have been far less happy than before, and nothing but the consciousness of good intention could have enabled me to support the weariness of unremitted vigilance.'

'How long, sir,' said I, 'has this great office been in your hands ?'

'About ten years ago,' said he, 'my daily observations of the changes of the sky led me to consider, whether, if I had the power of the seasons, I could confer greater plenty upon the inhabitants of the earth. this contemplation fastened on my mind, and I sat days and nights in imaginary dominion, pouring upon this country and that the showers of fertility, and seconding every fall of rain with a due proportion of sunshine. I had

yet only the will to do good, and did not imagine that I should ever have the power.

‘ One day, as I was looking on the fields withering with heat, I felt in my mind a sudden wish that I could send rain on the southern mountains, and raise the Nile to an inundation. In the hurry of my imagination I commanded rain to fall, and by comparing the time of my command, with that of the inundation, I found that the clouds had listened to my lips.’

‘ Might not some other cause,’ said I, ‘ produce this concurrence? the Nile does not always rise on the same day.’

‘ Do not believe,’ said he, with impatience, ‘ that such objections could escape me. I reasoned long against my own conviction, and laboured against truth with the utmost obstinacy. I sometimes suspected myself of madness, and should not have dared to impart this secret but to a man like you, capable of distinguishing the wonderful from the impossible, and the incredible from the false.’

‘ Why, sir,’ said I, ‘ do you call that incredible, which you know, or think you know, to be true?’

‘ Because,’ said he, ‘ I cannot prove it by any external evidence; and I know too well the laws of demonstration to think that my conviction ought to influence an-

other, who cannot, like me, be conscious of its force. I, therefore, shall not attempt to gain credit by disputation. It is sufficient that I feel this power, that I have long possessed, and every day exerted it. But the life of man is short, the infirmities of age increase upon me, and the time will soon come, when the regulator of the year must mingle with the dust. the care of appointing a successor has long disturbed me ; the night and the day have been spent in comparisons of all the characters which have come to my knowledge, and I have yet found none so worthy as myself.

‘ Hear, therefore, what I shall impart, with attention, such as the welfare of a world requires. If the task of a king be considered as difficult, who has the care only of a few millions, to whom he cannot do much good or harm, what must be the anxiety of him, on whom depends the action of the elements, and the great gifts of light and heat !...Hear me therefore with attention.

‘ I have diligently considered the position of the earth and sun, and formed innumerable schemes in which I changed their situation. I have sometimes turned aside the axis of the earth, and sometimes varied the ecliptic of the sun : but I have found it impossible to make a

disposition by which the world may be advantaged ; what one region gains, another loses by any imaginable alteration, even without considering the distant parts of the solar system with which we are unacquainted. Do not therefore, in thy administration of the year, indulge thy pride by innovation ; do not please thyself with thinking that thou canst make thyself renowned to all future ages, by disordering the seasons. the memory of mischief is no desirable fame. Much less will it become thee to let kindness or interest prevail. Never rob other countries of rain to pour it on thine own. For us the Nile is sufficient.'

'I promised, that when I possessed the power, I would use it with inflexible integrity ; and he dismissed me, pressing my hand. 'My heart,' said he, 'will be now at rest, and my benevolence will no more destroy my quiet ; I have found a man of wisdom and virtue, to whom I can cheerfully bequeath the inheritance of the sun.'

the prince heard this narration with very serious regard ; but the princess smiled, and Pekuah convulsed herself with laughter. 'Ladies,' said Imlac, 'to mock the heaviest of human afflictions is neither charitable nor wise. Few can attain this man's knowledge, and few practise his virtues ; but all may suffer his calamity.

Of the uncertainties of our present state, the most dreadful and alarming is the uncertain continuance of reason.

the princess was recollected, and the favourite was abashed. Rasselas, more deeply affected, inquired of Imlac, whether he thought such maladies of the mind frequent, and how they were contracted ?

‘ Disorders of intellect,’ answered Imlac, ‘ happen much more often than superficial observers will easily believe. Perhaps, if we speak with rigorous exactness, no human mind is in its right state. there is no man whose imagination does not sometimes predominate over his reason, who can regulate his attention wholly by his will, and whose ideas will come and go at his command. No man will be found in whose mind airy notions do not sometimes tyrannise, and force him to hope or fear beyond the limits of sober probability. All power of fancy over reason is a degree of insanity ; but while this power is such as we can control and repress, it is not visible to others, nor considered as any depravation of the mental faculties : it is not pronounced madness but when it becomes ungovernable, and apparently influences speech or action.

‘ To indulge the power of fiction, and send imagination out upon the wing, is often the sport of those who

delight too much in silent speculation. When we are alone we are not always busy ; the labour of excogitation is too violent to last long ; the ardour of inquiry will sometimes give way to idleness or satiety. He who has nothing external that can divert him, must find pleasure in his own thoughts, and must conceive himself what he is not ; for who is pleased with what he is ? He then expatiates in boundless futurity, and culls from all imaginable conditions that which for the present moment he should most desire, amuses his desires with impossible enjoyments, and confers upon his pride unattainable dominion. the mind dances from scene to scene, unites all pleasures in all combinations, and riots in delights, which nature and fortune with all their bounty cannot bestow.

‘ In time, some particular train of ideas fixes the attention, all other intellectual gratifications are rejected, the mind, in weariness or leisure, recurs constantly to the favourite conception, and feasts on the luscious falsehood, whenever she is offended with the bitterness of truth. By degrees the reign of fancy is confirmed ; she grows first imperious, and in time despotic. then fictions begin to operate as realities, false opinions fasten upon the mind, and life passes in dreams of rapture or of anguish.

‘this, sir, is one of the dangers of solitude, which the hermit has confessed not always to promote goodness; and the astronomer’s misery has proved to be not always propitious to wisdom.’

‘I will no more,’ said the favourite, ‘imagine myself the queen of Abyssinia. I have often spent the hours, which the princess gave to my own disposal, in adjusting ceremonies and regulating the court; I have repressed the pride of the powerful, and granted the petitions of the poor; I have built new palaces in more happy situations, planted groves upon the tops of mountains, and have exulted in the beneficence of royalty, till, when the princess entered, I had almost forgotten to bow down before her.’

‘And I,’ said the princess, ‘will not allow myself any more to play the shepherdess in my waking dreams. I have often soothed my thoughts with the quiet and innocence of pastoral employments, till I have in my chamber heard the winds whistle, and the sheep bleat: sometimes freed the lamb entangled in the thicket, and sometimes with my crook encountered the wolf. I have a dress like that of the village maids, which I put on to help my imagination, and a pipe on which I play softly, and suppose myself followed by my flocks.’

'I will confess,' said the prince, 'an indulgence of fantastick delight more dangerous than yours. I have frequently endeavoured to image the possibility of a perfect government, by which all wrong should be restrained, all vice reformed, and all the subjects preserved in tranquillity and innocence. this thought produced innumerable schemes of reformation, and dictated many useful regulations and salutary edicts. this has been the sport, and sometimes the labour, of my solitude; and I start, when I think with how little anguish I once supposed the death of my father and my brothers.'

'such,' says Imlac, 'are the effects of visionary schemes: when we first form them we know them to be absurd, but familiarize them by degrees, and in time lose sight of their folly.'

the evening was now far past, and they rose to return home. As they walked along the bank of the Nile, delighted with the beams of the moon quivering on the water, they saw at a small distance an old man, whom the prince had often heard in the assembly of the sages. 'Yonder,' said he, 'is one whose years have calmed his passions, but not clouded his reason; let us close the disquisitions of the night, by inquiring what are his sentiments of his own state, that we may know whether

youth alone is to struggle with vexation, and whether any better hope remains for the latter part of life.'

Here the sage approached and saluted them. they invited him to join their walk, and prattled awhile as acquaintance that had unexpectedly met one another. the old man was cheerful and talkative, and the way seemed short in his company. He was pleased to find himself not disregarded, accompanied them to their house, and at the prince's request entered with them. they placed him in the seat of honour, and set wine and ^Acon-serves before him.

'sir,' said the princess, 'an evening walk must give to a man of learning, like you, pleasures which ignorance and youth can hardly conceive. You know the qualities and the causes of all that you behold, the laws by which the river flows, the periods in which the planets perform their revolutions. Every thing must supply you with contemplation, and renew the consciousness of your own dignity.'

'Lady,' answered he, 'let the gay and the vigorous expect pleasure in their excursions ; it is enough that age can obtain ease. To me the world has lost its novelty : I look round and see what I remember to have seen in happier days. I rest against a tree, and consider, that in the same shade I once disputed upon the

annual overflow of the Nile, with a friend who is now silent in the grave. I cast my eyes upwards, fix them on the changing moon, and think with pain on the vicissitudes of life. I have ceased to take much delight in physical truth ; for what have I to do with those things which I am soon to leave ?

‘ You may at least recreate yourself,’ said Imlac, ‘ with the recollection of an honourable and useful life, and enjoy the praise which all agree to give you.’

‘ Praise,’ said the sage, with a sigh, ‘ is to an old man an empty sound. I have neither mother to be delighted with the reputation of her son, nor wife to partake the honours of her husband. I have outlived my friends and my rivals. Nothing is now of much importance ; for I cannot extend my interest beyond myself. Youth is delighted with applause, because it is considered as the earnest of some future good, and because the prospect of life is far extended : but to me, who am now declining to decrepitude, there is little to be feared from the malevolence of men, and yet less to be hoped from their affection or esteem. something they may yet take away, but they can give me nothing. Riches would now be useless, and high employment would be pain. My retrospect of life recalls to my view many opportunities of good neglected, much time squandered

upon trifles, and more lost in idleness and vacancy. I leave many great designs unattempted, and many great attempts unfinished. My mind is burdened with no heavy crime, and therefore I compose myself to tranquillity ; endeavour to abstract my thoughts from hopes and cares, which, though reason knows them to be vain, still try to keep their old possession of the heart : expect, with serene humility, that hour which nature cannot long delay ; and hope to possess in a better state, that happiness which here I could not find, and that virtue which here I have not attained.'

He rose and went away, leaving his audience not much elated with the hope of long life. the prince consoled himself with remarking, that it was not reasonable to be disappointed by this account ; for age had never been considered as the season of felicity, and if it was possible to be easy in decline and weakness, it was likely that the days of vigour and alacrity might be happy ; that the noon of life might be bright, if the evening could be calm.

the princess suspected that age was querulous and malignant, and delighted to repress the expectations of those who had newly entered the world. she had seen the possessors of estates look with envy on their

heirs, and known many who enjoyed pleasure no longer than they could confine it to themselves.

Pekuah conjectured that the man was older than he appeared, and was willing to impute his complaints to delirious dejection : or else supposed that he had been unfortunate, and was therefore discontented : ‘For nothing,’ said she, ‘is more common, than to call our own condition the condition of life.’

Imlac, who had no desire to see them depressed, smiled at the comforts which they could so readily procure to themselves, and remembered, that at the same age, he was equally confident of unmingled prosperity, and equally fertile of consolatory expedients. He forbore to force upon them unwelcome knowledge, which time itself would too soon impress. the princess and her lady retired ; the madness of the astronomer hung upon their minds, and they desired Imlac to enter upon his office, and delay next morning the rising of the sun.

the princess and Pekuah having talked in private of Imlac’s astronomer, thought his character at once so amiable and so strange, that they could not be satisfied without a nearer knowledge ; and Imlac was requested to find the means of bringing them together.

this was somewhat difficult ; the philosopher had never received any visits from women, though he lived

in a city that had in it many Europeans who followed the manners of their own countries, and many from other parts of the world, that lived there with European liberty. the ladies would not be refused, and several schemes were proposed for the accomplishment of their design. It was proposed to introduce them as strangers in distress, to whom the sage was always accessible ; but, after some deliberation, it appeared, that by this artifice, no acquaintance could be formed, for their conversation would be short, and they could not decently importune him often. ' this,' said Rasselas, ' is true ; but I have yet a stronger objection against the misrepresentation of your state. I have always considered it as treason against the great republic of human nature, to make any man's virtues the means of deceiving him, whether on great or little occasions. All imposture weakens confidence, and obviates benevolence. When the sage finds that you are not what you seemed, he will feel the resentment natural to a man who, conscious of great abilities, discovers that he has been tricked by understandings meaner than his own, and, perhaps, the distrust, which he can never afterwards wholly lay aside, may stop the voice of counsel, and close the hand of charity ; and where will you find the power of restoring his benefactions to mankind, or his peace to himself ?'

To this no reply was attempted, and Imlac began to hope that their curiosity would subside ; but, next day, Pekuah told him she had now found an honest pretence for a visit to the astronomer, for she would solicit permission to continue under him the studies in which she

had been initiated by the Arab, and the princess might go with her either as a fellow-student, or because a woman could not decently come alone. 'I am afraid,' said Imlac, 'that he will be soon weary of your company: men advanced far in knowledge do not love to repeat the elements of their art, and I am not certain that even of the elements, as he will deliver them connected with inferences, and mingled with reflections, you are a very capable auditress.' 'that,' said Pekuah, 'must be my care: I ask of you only to take me thither. My knowledge is, perhaps, more than you imagine it, and, by concurring always with his opinions, I shall make him think it greater than it is.'

the astronomer, in pursuance of this resolution, was told, that a foreign lady, travelling in search of knowledge, had heard of his reputation, and was desirous to become his scholar. the uncommonness of the proposal raised at once his surprise and curiosity; and when, after a short deliberation, he consented to admit her, he could not stay without impatience till the next day.

the ladies dressed themselves magnificently, and were attended by Imlac to the astronomer, who was pleased to see himself approached with respect by persons of so splendid an appearance. In the exchange of the first civilities he was timorous and bashful; but when the talk became regular, he recollected his powers, and justified the character which Imlac had given. Inquiring of Pekuah what could have turned her inclination towards astronomy, he received from her a history of her adventure at the pyramid, and of the time passed in the

Arab's island. she told her tale with ease and elegance, and her conversation took possession of his heart. the discourse was then turned to astronomy : Pekuah displayed what she knew : he looked upon her as a prodigy of genius, and entreated her not to desist from a study which she had so happily begun.

they came again and again, and were every time more welcome than before. the sage endeavoured to amuse them, that they might prolong their visits, for he found his thoughts grow brighter in their company ; the clouds of solicitude vanished by degrees, as he forced himself to entertain them, and he grieved when he was left at their departure to his old employment of regulating the seasons.

the princess and her favourite had now watched his lips for several months, and could not catch a single word from which they could judge whether he continued, or not, in the opinion of his preternatural commission. they often contrived to bring him to an open declaration ; but he easily eluded all their attacks, and on which side soever they pressed him, escaped from them to some other topick.

As their familiarity increased, they invited him often to the house of Imlac, where they distinguished him by extraordinary respect. He began gradually to delight in sublunary pleasures. He came early, and departed late ; laboured to recommend himself by assiduity and compliance ; excited their curiosity after new arts, that they might still want his assistance ; and when they made any excursion of pleasure or inquiry, entreated to attend them.

By long experience of his integrity and wisdom, the prince and his sister were convinced that he might be trusted without danger ; and lest he should draw any false hopes from the civilities which he received, discovered to him their condition, with the motives of their journey ; and required his opinion on the choice of life.

‘ Of the various conditions which the world spreads before you, which you shall prefer,’ said the sage, ‘ I am not able to instruct you. I can only tell, that I have chosen wrong. I have passed my time in study without experience ; in the attainment of sciences which can, for the most part, be but remotely useful to mankind. I have purchased knowledge at the expense of all the common comforts of life : I have missed the endearing elegance of female friendship, and the happy commerce of domestick tenderness. If I have obtained any prerogatives above other students, they have been accompanied with fear, disquiet, and scrupulosity ; but even of these prerogatives, whatever they were, I have, since my thoughts have been diversified by more intercourse with the world, begun to question the reality. When I have been for a few days lost in pleasing dissipation, I am always tempted to think that my inquiries have ended in error, and that I have suffered much, and suffered in vain.’

Imlac was delighted to find that the sage’s understanding was breaking through its mists, and resolved to detain him from the planets till he should forget his task of ruling them, and reason should recover its original influence.

From this time the astronomer was received into familiar friendship, and partook of all their projects and pleasures : his respect kept him attentive, and the activity of Rasselas did not leave much time unengaged. something was always to be done ; the day was spent in making observations which furnished talk for the evening, and the evening was closed with a scheme for the morrow.

the sage confessed to Imlac, that since he had mingled in the gay tumults of life, and divided his hours by a succession of amusements, he found the conviction of his authority over the skies fade gradually from his mind, and began to trust less to an opinion which he never could prove to others, and which he now found subject to variation, from causes in which reason had no part. ‘ If I am accidentally left alone for a few hours,’ said he, ‘ my inveterate persuasion rushes upon my soul, and my thoughts are chained down by some irresistible violence ; but they are soon disentangled by the prince’s conversation, and instantaneously released at the entrance of Pekuah. I am like a man habitually afraid of spectres, who is set at ease by a lamp, and wonders at the dread which harassed him in the dark ; yet, if his lamp be extinguished, feels again the terrors which he knows that when it is light he shall feel no more. But I am sometimes afraid lest I indulge my quiet by criminal negligence, and voluntarily forget the great charge with which I am intrusted. If I favour myself in a known error, or am determined by my own ease in a doubtful question of this importance, how dreadful is my crime !’

‘No disease of the imagination,’ answered Imlac, ‘is so difficult of cure, as that which is complicated with the dread of guilt; fancy and conscience then act interchangeably upon us, and so often shift their places, that the illusions of one are not distinguished from the dictates of the other. If fancy presents images not moral or religious, the mind drives them away when they give it pain, but when melancholick notions take the form of duty, they lay hold on the faculties without opposition, because we are afraid to exclude or banish them. For this reason the superstitious are often melancholy, and the melancholy almost always superstitious.

‘But do not let the suggestions of timidity overpower your better reason: the danger of neglect can be but as the probability of the obligation, which, when you consider it with freedom, you find very little, and that little growing every day less. Open your heart to the influence of the light, which, from time to time, breaks in upon you: when scruples importune you, which you in your lucid moments know to be vain, do not stand to parley, but fly to business or to Pekuah, and keep this thought always prevalent, that you are only one atom of the mass of humanity, and have neither such virtue nor vice, as that you should be singled out for supernatural favours or afflictions.’

‘All this,’ said the astronomer, ‘I have often thought, but my reason has been so long subjugated by an uncontrollable and overwhelming idea, that it durst not confide in its own decisions. I now see how fatally I betrayed

my quiet, by suffering chimeras to prey upon me in secret ; but melancholy shrinks from communication, and I never found a man before, to whom I could impart my troubles, though I had been certain of relief. I rejoice to find my own sentiments confirmed by yours, who are not easily deceived, and can have no motive or purpose to deceive. I hope, that time and variety will dissipate the gloom that has so long surrounded me, and the latter part of my days will be spent in peace.'

'Your learning and virtue,' said Imlac, 'may justly give you hopes.'

Rasselas then entered with the princess and Pekuah, and inquired whether they had contrived any new diversion for the next day ? 'such,' said Nekayah, 'is the state of life, that none are happy but by the anticipation of change : the change itself is nothing ; when we have made it, the next wish is to change again. the world is not yet exhausted ; let me see something to-morrow which I never saw before.'

'Variety,' said Rasselas, 'is so necessary to content, that even the happy valley disgusted me by the recurrence of its luxuries ; yet I could not forbear to reproach myself with impatience, when I saw the monks of saint Antony support, without complaint, a life, not of uniform delight, but uniform hardship.'

'those men,' answered Imlac, 'are less wretched in their silent convent than the Abyssinian princes in their prison of pleasure. whatever is done by the monks is incited by an adequate and reasonable motive. their labour supplies them with necessities ; it therefore can-

not be omitted, and is certainly rewarded. their devotion prepares them for another state, and reminds them of its approach, while it fits them for it. their time is regularly distributed ; one duty succeeds another, so that they are not left open to the distraction of unguided choice, nor lost in the shades of listless inactivity. there is a certain task to be performed at an appropriated hour ; and their toils are cheerful, because they consider them as acts of piety, by which they are always advancing towards endless felicity.'

'Do you think,' said Nekayah, 'that the monastick rule is a more holy and less imperfect state than any other ? May not he equally hope for future happiness who converses openly with mankind, who succours the distressed by his charity, instructs the ignorant by his learning, and contributes by his industry to the general system of life ; even though he should omit some of the mortifications which are practised in the cloister, and allow himself such harmless delights as his condition may place within his reach ?'

'this,' said Imlac, 'is a question which has long divided the wise, and perplexed the good. I am afraid to decide on either part. He that lives well in the world, is better than he that lives well in a monastery. But, perhaps, every one is not able to stem the temptations of publick life ; and if he cannot conquer, he may properly retreat. some have little power to do good, and have likewise little strength to resist evil. Many are weary of their conflicts with adversity, and are willing to eject those passions which have long busied them in

vain. And many are dismissed by age and diseases from the more laborious duties of society. In monasteries the weak and timorous may be happily sheltered, the weary may repose, and the penitent may meditate. those retreats of prayer and contemplation have something so congenial to the mind of man, that, perhaps, there is scarcely one that does not purpose to close his life in pious abstraction with a few associates serious as himself.'

'such,' said Pekuah, 'has often been my wish, and I have heard the princess declare, that she should not willingly die in a crowd.'

'the liberty of using harmless pleasures,' proceeded Imlac, 'will not be disputed ; but it is still to be examined what pleasures are harmless. the evil of any pleasure that Nekayah can image is not in the act itself, but in its consequences. Pleasure, in itself harmless, may become mischievous, by endearing to us a state which we know to be transient and probatory, and withdrawing our thoughts from that, of which every hour brings us nearer to the beginning, and of which no length of time will bring us to the end. Mortification is not virtuous in itself, nor has any other use, but that it disengages us from the allurements of sense. In the state of future perfection, to which we all aspire, there will be pleasure without danger, and security without restraint.'

the princess was silent, and Rasselas, turning to the astronomer, asked him, whether he could not delay her

retreat, by shewing her something which she had not seen before ?

‘Your curiosity,’ said the sage, ‘has been so general, and your pursuit of knowledge so vigorous, that novelties are not now very easily to be found ; but what you can no longer procure from the living may be given by the dead. Among the wonders of this country are the catacombs, or the ancient repositories, in which the bodies of the earliest generations were lodged, and where, by the virtue of the gums which embalmed them, they yet remain without corruption.’

‘I know not,’ said Rasselas, ‘what pleasure the sight of the catacombs can afford ; but since nothing else offers, I am resolved to view them, and shall place this with many other things which I have done, because I would do something.’

They hired a guard of horsemen, and the next day visited the catacombs. When they were about to descend into the sepulchral caves, ‘Pekuah,’ said the prince, ‘we are now again invading the habitations of the dead ; I know that you will stay behind ; let me find you safe when I return.’ ‘No, I will not be left,’ answered Pekuah, ‘I will go down between you and the prince.’

They then all descended, and roved with wonder through the labyrinth of subterraneous passages, where the bodies were laid in rows on either side.

‘What reason,’ said the prince, ‘can be given, why the Egyptians should thus expensively preserve those carcases which some nations consume with fire, others

lay to mingle with the earth, and all agree to remove from their sight, as soon as decent rites can be performed ?’

‘the original of ancient customs,’ said Imlac, ‘is commonly unknown ; for the practice often continues when the cause has ceased ; and concerning superstitious ceremonies it is vain to conjecture ; for what reason did not dictate, reason cannot explain. I have long believed that the practice of embalming arose only from tenderness to the remains of relations or friends, and to this opinion I am more inclined, because it seems impossible that this care should have been general ; had all the dead been embalmed, their repositories must in time have been more spacious than the dwellings of the living. I suppose only the rich or honourable were secured from corruption, and the rest left to the course of nature.

‘But it is commonly supposed that the *Ægyptians* believed the soul to live as long as the body continued undissolved, and therefore tried this method of eluding death.’

‘Could the wise *Ægyptians*,’ said Nekayah, ‘think so grossly of the soul ? If the soul could once survive its separation, what could it afterwards receive or suffer from the body ?’

‘the *Ægyptians* would doubtless think erroneously,’ said the astronomer, ‘in the darkness of heathenism, and the first dawn of philosophy. the nature of the soul is still disputed amidst all our opportunities of clearer knowledge : some yet say, that it may be material, who, nevertheless, believe it to be immortal.’

‘some,’ answered Imlac, ‘have indeed said that the soul is material, but I can scarcely believe that any man has thought it, who knew how to think ; for all the conclusions of reason enforce the immateriality of mind, and all the notices of sense and investigations of science concur to prove the unconsciousness of matter.’

‘It was never supposed that cogitation is inherent in matter, or that every particle is a thinking being. Yet, if any part of matter be devoid of thought, what part can we suppose to think ? Matter can differ from matter only in form, density, bulk, motion, and direction of motion : to which of these, however varied or combined, can consciousness be annexed ? To be round or square, to be solid or fluid, to be great or little, to be moved slowly or swiftly one way or another, are modes of material existence, all equally alien from the nature of cogitation. If matter be once without thought, it can only be made to think by some new modification ; but all the modifications which it can admit are equally unconnected with cogitative powers.’

‘But the materialists,’ said the astronomer, ‘urge that matter may have qualities with which we are unacquainted.’

‘He who will determine,’ returned Imlac, ‘against that which he knows, because there may be something which he knows not ; he that can set hypothetical possibility against acknowledged certainty, is not to be admitted among reasonable beings. All that we know of matter is, that matter is inert, senseless, and lifeless ; and if this conviction cannot be opposed but by referring

us to something that we know not, we have all the evidence that human intellect can admit. If that which is known may be over-ruled by that which is unknown, no being, not omniscient, can arrive at certainty.'

'Yet let us not,' said the astronomer, 'too arrogantly limit the Creator's power.'

'It is no limitation of omnipotence,' replied the poet, 'to suppose that one thing is not consistent with another, that the same proposition cannot be at once true and false, that the same number cannot be even and odd, that cogitation cannot be conferred on that which is created incapable of cogitation.'

'I know not,' said Nekayah, 'any great use of this question. Does that immateriality, which, in my opinion, you have sufficiently proved, necessarily include eternal duration?'

'Of immateriality,' said Imlac, 'our ideas are negative, and therefore obscure. Immateriality seems to imply a natural power of perpetual duration as a consequence of exemption from all causes of decay: whatever perishes is destroyed by the solution of its texture, and separation of its parts; nor can we conceive how that which has no parts, and therefore admits no solution, can be naturally corrupted or impaired.'

'I know not,' said Rasselas, 'how to conceive any thing without extension; what is extended must have parts, and you allow, that whatever has parts may be destroyed.'

'Consider your own conceptions,' replied Imlac, 'and the difficulty will be less. You will find substance

without extension. An ideal form is no less real than material bulk : yet an ideal form has no extension. It is no less certain, when you think on a pyramid, that your mind possesses the idea of a pyramid, than that the pyramid itself is standing. What space does the idea of a pyramid occupy more than the idea of a grain of corn ? or how can either idea suffer laceration ? As is the effect, such is the cause ; as thought, such is the power that thinks ; a power impassive and indiscernible.'

'But the Being,' said Nekayah, 'whom I fear to name, the Being which made the soul, can destroy it.'

'He surely can destroy it,' answered Imlac, 'since, however unperishable, it receives from a superiour nature its power of duration. that it will not perish by any inherent cause of decay, or principle of corruption, may be shown by philosophy ; but philosophy can tell no more. that it will not be annihilated by him that made it, we must humbly learn from higher authority.'

the whole assembly stood awhile silent and collected. 'Let us return,' said Rasselas, 'from this scene of mortality. How gloomy would be these mansions of the dead to him who did not know that he should never die ; that what now acts shall continue its agency, and what now thinks, shall think on for ever. those that lie here stretched before us, the wise and the powerful of ancient times, warn us to remember the shortness of our present state : they were, perhaps, snatched away, while they were busy, like us, in the choice of life.'

'To me,' said the princess, 'the choice of life is be-

come less important : I hope hereafter to think only on the choice of eternity.'

they then hastened out of the caverns, and, under the protection of their guard, returned to Cairo.

It was now the time of the inundation of the Nile : a few days after their visit to the catacombs, the river began to rise.

they were confined to their house. the whole region being under water gave them no invitation to any excursions, and being well supplied with materials for talk, they diverted themselves with comparisons of the different forms of life which they had observed, and with various schemes of happiness, which each of them had formed.

Pekuah was never so much charmed with any place as the convent of St. Antony, where the Arab restored her to the princess, and wished only to fill it with pious maidens, and to be made prioress of the order : she was weary of expectation and disgust, and would gladly be fixed in some invariable state.

the princess thought, that of all sublunary things, knowledge was the best : she desired first to learn all sciences, and then purposed to found a college of learned women, in which she would preside, that, by conversing with the old, and educating the young, she might divide her time between the acquisition and communication of wisdom, and raise up for the next age models of prudence, and patterns of piety.

the prince desired a little kingdom, in which he might administer justice in his own person, and see all the parts

of government with his own eyes ; but he could never fix the limits of his dominion, and was always adding to the number of his subjects.

Imlac and the astronomer were contented to be driven along the stream of life, without directing their course to any particular port.

Of these wishes that they had formed they well knew that none could be obtained. they deliberated awhile what was to be done, and resolved, when the inundation should cease, to return to Abyssinia.

THE END.

ERRATA.

The following words are here presented in their correct form, to rectify the errors in the pages to which they respectively refer.

Page.	Line.	word.	error.	corrected.
11	3	rough	gh instead of gh	rough
23	6	ægis	s	ægis
44	21	machine	ch	machine
52	19	the	th	the
54	22	circuit	c	circuit
58	15	secrets	c	secrets
60	6	senses	s	senses
....	12	where	é	where
....	13	where	é	where
62	13	where	é	where
....	24	among	ng	among
....	....	compare	a	compare
72	11	emotions	o	emotions
86	7	been	ee	been
92	17	success	c	success
174	15	accompany	c	accompany
188	11	instructive	s	instructive
241	16	men	e	man
244	24	increase	s	increase

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